

4 Pence (S.) 1592

January 2 1692

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ACCOUNT

Of Mr. *Thomas Ridgely*, an Independent Minister and Preacher at the *Three Cranes* in *Thames-Street*; wilful and malicious blaspheming the Work of the Spirit of God in a Member of that Church; and how he and Mr. *Peter Pindar*, and Mr. *Robert Handcock*, have labour'd to drive her to Distraction or Despair. With the Copy of the Things they persecuted her for, and the Copy of three Letters she sent Mr. *Ridgely* to read, and then to give Mr. *Pindar* his; and the Offence Mr. *Barton* had given her; with the Scriptures she apply'd; and a Copy how it was try'd before the Church; and also how the Sufferer declar'd all to his Face at *Pinner's-Hall*, before the Ministers, and he did not contradict one Word she said.

And also the Copy of the Witnesses Hands against them; and the Testimony of twenty Witnesses, what her Life and Conversation has been from her Child hood.

Printed for the Sufferer. Price 6 d.



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An ACCOUNT, &c.

IT being the exprefs Command of God; both in the *Old and New Testament*, that just Judgment ſhall be us'd, ~~with~~ ⁱⁿ Reſpect of Perſons; that Judgment ſhould be executed upon heinous Offenders; and that they that truly fear the Lord, and have walk'd in his Ways, ſhould not ſuffer as evil Doers; that they may be aſham'd, that falſly accuſe their good Converſation in Chriſt. Here I ſhall give a true and particular Account of Mr. *Thomas Ridgly*, an Independant Miniſter, Preacher at the *Three Cranes* in *Thames-Street*, wilful and malicious perfecuting the Spirit of God in me, which has been discover'd at laſt from his own Words, in diſcourſing with him; and his Proceedings with me in the Year 1699. He preach'd in order to be our Paſtor, Mr. *Pindar* gave Notice to the Church, Mr. *Ridgly* deſir'd to ſpeak with every Member perſonally; I knowing it our Duty as a Church to wait upon him, I went and told of the Notice that was given to us, and that I thought it our Duty as a Church, to wait on him; I knew falſe Reports was rais'd upon what I had ſaid to Mr. *Gouge*, I declar'd to Mr. *Ridgly* the Things I was griev'd at in Faithfulneſs, that if they were not ſatisfy'd with me, I would not ſtay with them; I deſir'd the Brethren might be brought in again, that was ſo dealt with for ſpeaking their Conſcience. He ask'd me ſeveral Queſtions, which made me diſcourſe the longer. He clapp'd his Hand twice on his Breſt, and ſaid, *This is what I want to know*. I was ſurpriz'd at that, and thought, ſure there has been wiſe Men enough with you, before I come, to tell you theſe Things; for all that was my Grief, ought to have been every Member's, had they been concern'd as they ought, for the Glory of God. When I was coming away, he ask'd, if I would pleaſe to ſtay and drink before I went? But I did not.

Mr. *Pindar* met me in the Street ſome Time after, and ſaid, Mr. *Ridgly* would ſpeak with you: I went, and ſaid, Mr. *Pindar* ſent me; and ſaid, now, Sir, I am come to hear what you have to ſay to me. He ſaid, what did you ſay to Mr. *Gouge*? I ſaid, Sir, I ſaid a great many Things, I can't tell what it is you have to ſay to me. He ſaid, there has been a great Diſcourſe amongſt the Brethren about you, and ſome were for your coming before me, and all the Brethren; others ſaid, no, only to me, and ſome of the Brethren; others ſaid, only to me; and they brought it to this Iſſue, that if you would not come, there was nothing to be ſaid to you; but if you did, I was only to ask if it was all your own Thoughts, or whether you was put on by Mr. *Lan*. I told him, it was all my own Thoughts. And he farther told me, that he told them, he had diſcourſ'd with me, and he did not find any Prejudice in me againſt Mr. *Gouge*. Then I told him what it was I had ſaid to Mr. *Gouge*. His Answer

was, well, I cannot justify Mr. *Gouge*. I said, pray, Sir, have you any Thing more to say to me? He said, no. I took my Leave of him, and he wish'd me a good Morning. Here I was three Times clear'd, that I had given no just Offence; for the Brethren that heard me speak, had clear'd me. It was Mr. *Ridgly's* absolute Duty at the next Church-meeting, to have told them, I had been with him, and what I said, was for the Glory of God: Instead of that, he infus'd these Things into them, that what I had said might be a Delusion, and that I was in Love with him, and was craz'd, and I might tell him these Things to get into his Affection: But he thought, the Root of the Matter was in me; the last Words was to keep me in the Church, the rest was for them to afflict me. I doe solemnly appeal to God, I had not such a Thought, nor no Affections for him, more than I ought to have for any Man, whose Ministry I was to sit under; neither had he Ground for such a Thought, but the contrary upon every Thing he has maliciously pretended it. A Year and a Quarter after he met me accidentally. He ask'd me where I liv'd? I said, in *Leaden-Hall-Street*, but next Tuesday I was to go to *Cateaton-Street*, over against *Blackwell-Hall*. He said, why you did live in *Grays-Inn-Lane*: Is your Master a Dissenter? I said, yes; and I shall be glad to see you there, if you please to call. He spoke so sharply, that I could hardly give him an Answer, it was so contrary to the Manner of his speaking when I was with him; and ~~he~~ ^{he} was dissatisfy'd about my moving Places, and that there had been Discourses about that, for he did not know it from me, that I liv'd in *Grays-Inn-Lane*; therefore I said, I should be glad to see him, that I might give him Satisfaction, and have Justice done me for the great Abuse Mrs. *Gooding* gave me: Now the Lord that knows the Innocency and Integrity of my Heart, has discover'd this Mystery to me; it was to make me afraid to come to him with any Complaints, that if it were possible, I might be driven to Distraction or Despair, and human Reason could not support under what I have gone through. After his Expressions in Prayer, I went with great Grief in my Spirit, and told him, I came, because I found he was dissatisfy'd with me, by his praying so much, that God would humble me. At Mr. *Humbes's* I told him, if I had given any Offence, I was sorry for it, and I knew it his Duty to reprove me, and mine to give him Satisfaction: And I said three times over, pray, Sir, be pleas'd to deal faithfully and plainly with me. He said, he was not dissatisfy'd with me. I said, I thought it was because of that Bill I put up at Mr. *Pitsons*. He said, no, there was no Sin in putting up a Bill, that was to be sure. He said three times to me, he was not dissatisfy'd with me; and said, he did not know it was mine, but he heard since it was. This Word was to excuse his shewing such Displeasure at that Question, because it was mine. I told him the Reasons that made me put it up, that if he had known my Circumstances, it would have been his Duty to have spoke that to me, that might have supported and comforted me, when he met me, and not afflict me. I told him, Mrs. *Gooding* met me in the Street, and said, why was I so fine to Day? And said,

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said, I was in a Whore's Dress. I told her, I was like to be murder'd or poyson'd for not going finer, by the Cook-maid. She laugh'd at that, and said, she had heard of that ; and again said, you are in a Whore's Dress, and you are very bold, for I have seen you come out of the Vestry two or three Times from Mr. *Ridgly*, and bid me not call her Sister, for she was none of us ; and she said several Times over, she would never come there again to trouble us ; all this was willful malicious Lies ; and said, you have been with him at his Lodging too. The worst I said to her, was, what if such a one as you sent me there ? He smil'd, and said, you might have told her, she had been with him in *Cheapside*. I told him, Mr. *Pindar*, and many more, had griev'd me, and I was sure I had deserv'd no such Carriages from them. I said, I was very willing to give the Reasons of my removing my Places, but I fear'd it would be troublesome ; he said, no, it would not ; I said again, I fear'd it would ; he said again, no, it would not. I gave him an Account when I came away ; he thank'd me for my good Company, but his Carriage gave him the Lie, for he simper'd at the Abuses I had suffer'd, and call'd to the Maid for his Shoes, Razor, Wash ball, and Looking-glass. He had been my Pastor above three Years, and I was griev'd so long before I went to him ; and it was his own Actions that made me go to him. I was griev'd more and more, so much, that the Word of God commands not to bare it. I writ a Book of my Life and Conversation from my Child-hood ; I gave it to Mr. *Pindar* ; I had spoke to him several Times, and pray'd him to tell me plainly what it was they had against me ; he always spoke kindly, and would own nothing. Once he said, a Sister had desir'd him to come to me about the Bell, that was a Question ; she said, I was censorious ; and he told her, he believ'd, that I never had said any Thing but what I thought my Duty. Another Time he shook me by the Hand, and said, he had no more against me, than he had against himself. I told him, I had done it to give them Satisfaction about me, and to have it from them, about their unchristian Words and Carriages to me. I desir'd Mr. *Barton* and Mr. *Yeatman* might be sent to enquire what my Conversation had been, for I thought they had been my worst Enemies. Ten Weeks after I deliver'd the Book, I told Mr. *Pindar*, I thought, what I had done deserv'd an Answer. He said, why you say, that I am angry, and that Mr. *Ridgly* is angry, and Mr. *Barton* and Mr. *Yeatman* ; it is only your Imaginations, for none of us are angry with you. I said, if Mr. *Barton* has nothing against me, I have something against him ; for I can prove what he has done to be sinful. He said, you can't ; I said, I can, and will. I writ six Scriptures, and one Commandment ; I took Mr. *Lackson* with me, who was present when Mr. *Barton* gave me the first Offence. I read them to Mr. *Barton*, and told him, I was come in a Christian Way to convince him of his Sin, and to forgive him ; he was very perverse. He and Mr. *Lackson* to cover it, said, I wrested the Scriptures, and commanded me to bring it before the Church, and if they would say it was so, he would withdraw for a disorderly Member. I told him, I had ask'd Mr. *Handcock*,

cock, and his Wife, and Mr. *Mason*, and that all said, it could not be taken in no other Sense. Then he said, he was sorry he had griev'd me. I freely forgave him. He told me, I had written all that Book out of Malice and Envy. I said, if he saw it, he would not say so. He said, they would not let him see it. He said, I had written about Mr. *Ridgly's*, and Mr. *Pindar's* Expressions in Prayer, and I griev'd their Spirits. He ask'd, what it was ^{but} I would not tell him? He said, he would have it before the Church, for he knew no Reason why they should not acknowledge their Offences, as well as he. He told me and Mr. *Lackson* together four times over, that Mr. *Pindar* told him, Mr. *Ridgly* made very light of what I had done, and thought I had done it in some extraordinary accidental Passion, and bid me go to them about it. I went to Mr. *Mason* and Mr. *Handcock's* to pray them to own to Mr. *Barton*, that they gave their Judgment that those Things was so as I took them, if Mr. *Barton* ask'd. I told them, I had read those Scriptures, and convinc'd him, and forgiven him. Mr. *Handcock* took them out of my Hand, and read them, and then said again, it was so as I took it; and there I understood, Mr. *Pindar* had told Mr. *Handcock* the same. I sent Word by Mr. *Lackson*, I would not come to the Lord's Table, 'till I had spoke with Mr. *Pindar* and Mr. *Ridgly* Face to Face. Mr. *Pindar* came and bid me come to the Meeting-house after the Lecture was done. When I came, Mr. *Barton* call'd Mr. *Ridgly* to me, and went away. Mr. *Ridgly* made a Laugh at me with Derision, and said, what, I think I have a Book of yours? Alas-a-day! I don't think it worth my While to read it. Then Mr. *Pindar* came, he said, what was I better than all the Folks besides? I said, I was commanded not to suffer as an evil Doer, that they might be asham'd that falsly accus'd my good Conversation in Christ; and I was not unsensible, there had been scandalous Persons in that Church, and in others, and therefore I would not bare it. I told Mr. *Ridgly*, as he was a Ruling Elder, he ought to see Justice done, and the Word of God requir'd it at his Hands. I desir'd to know whether I had wretted the six Scriptures, and one Commandment. I said, pray, Brother *Mason*, be so kind to own, that you gave your Judgment that those Things was as I took them. He said, let's hear what you said? I repeated the whole Matter. He said, it was very strange for him to do so the second Time, when she had been with him about the first. Mr. *Ridgly* said, it was foolish, and own'd, upon Mr. *Pindar's* Reading, that I rightly apply'd the Scriptures upon what Mr. *Barton* had done concerning me, that it was sinful. Then I told them, Mr. *Barton* told me, that Mr. *Pindar* told him, Mr. *Ridgly* made very light of what I had done, and thought that I did it in a Passion. I said, do you think I could do all that in a Passion? Mr. *Pindar* said, he had known as much again done in a Passion. I said, if he had, that was not done in a Passion, for there was a faithful Account of the Reasons that made me go to live at my own Hands, both the Times. He said, he believ'd, that I would be angry if any Body should tell me, I was too old to be marry'd. I said, no, I should not. Then Mr. *Ridgly* said twice, look, look, Mr. *Pindar*, she thinks it a

Scandal to be marry'd. I said, no, I do not. Then he said twice over, he wish'd I was marry'd, so that it was to a good Husband. He took the Pot, and said, I will drink to you; this shall denote I have nothing against you. And Mr. *Pindar* said, I told you before, there was no Body had any Thing against you. Mr. *Ridgly* ask'd me, if I would let it all alone. I said, yes, I think so. He said, what and Mrs. *Gooding* too. I said, yes, I think so. But if I can't walk in Love, as Christ commands his Children to do, I will not walk with you; for I will not be griev'd as I have been: They had almost broke my Heart; there was nothing in the Book to cause such Thoughts, but there was in the Book, that will prove to every Man's and Woman's Conscience, that I could not have such a Thought, as to write that Book out of Pride, to get Mr. *Ridgly* or Mr. *Pindar* for a Husband. I had writ nothing but what I had appeal'd to God in the doing of, believing, I shall give an Account of my Words and Actions at the last Day. Mr. *Ridgly* and Mr. *Pindar* some how or other, deluded the aforesaid Persons to deny they had given their Judgment; when Mr. *Barton* made Enquiry, they altogether in the Vestry deny'd, that they gave their Judgment that it was as I took it; and pretended I was craz'd, and wrested the Scriptures, and was a Disturber of the Church, and had griev'd their Spirits. This was to keep Mr. *Barton* from having my Book look'd in-to, for then Mr. *Ridgly's* and Mr. *Pindar's* Wickedness would have been discover'd, which was far greater than I was sensible of. Then they reported these Things, and took away my Livelihood. After Mr. *Handcock* and his Wife had deny'd to Mr. *Barton*, they gave their Judgment, he very much reflected on me for clearing my Innocency. He told me, that I was apt to take every Thing in a wrong Sense, and that all the Brethren told him so, and that I had griev'd their Spirits; and what I said to Mr. *Gouge*, might be by the Spirit of the Devil; and my Peace with God, might be a Delusion. I went to Mr. *Ridgly's* Lodging on *London-Bridge*, and told him these Things, and what several more of the Brethren had said to me. I told him, I was counted a Lyar and Hypocrite; I charg'd it upon his and Mr. *Pindar's* Expressions in Prayer. He own'd, that I told him, I was sure if he thought of his Carriage to me about my Book in that terrible Night of Wind, I was sure he could not have Peace in that; and that I had heard many Things from him, that came from my Book, and that he had preach'd many Sermons upon my Account; that if Terror belong'd to me, I might take it to my self; and if not, there was other for me. I told him, he had faithfully discover'd both Natures, and I desir'd God to make him more and more faithful; for I desir'd all Sin to be discover'd. He own'd, he had preach'd them upon my Account, but chid me very much for discouraging him about it. He ask'd me three several times, what I came to trouble him for? I told him, I knew it my Duty to come to him first, and that it would not be for his Honour for me to go to another Minister; and if he would not clear me, I would go to another. I ask'd him four Questions, first, If *Satan* was divided against himself, how could his Kingdom stand? Secondly, I ask'd, whe-

whether God was not a God of Truth? Thirdly, Whether he was not a God of Mercy? Fourthly, Whether he was not a God of Justice? I said, and these are three of his Attributes. He said, yes. I said, and thus I am: For, Sir, Mr. *Pindar* sent me to you before you was our Pastor, to give you an Account of what I said to Mr. *Gouge*; and when I had told you what I said, your Answer was, well, I cannot justify Mr. *Gouge*. I said, and you know, you own'd I had rightly apply'd the Scriptures upon what Mr. *Barton* said concerning me. He said, yes, I know I did. I told him, I had given a sufficient Account of my Conversation in my Book, and that I had never given one Member of the Church any just Occasion of Offence, and I had been brought to Death's Door twice already, and that his Carriage to me about my Book, seiz'd my Spirits; so that it was a great Occasion of my long Sickness; and since the Bottom of all their Reflections was discover'd, I would clear my self of their Charges, or I should be rack'd so long as I liv'd. He said, he own'd he had made a Search within the Church and without, and I never had given any just Offence. He said, he would have me go to Mr. *Hancock*, and make it up. I said, no, I won't; for I offer'd to shew him the Letter, which was all I spoke to Mr. *Gouge*, and he would not see it. I gave Mr. *Ridgely* the Letter to read, and bid him justify or condemn me. I told him, when I had done speaking to Mr. *Gouge*, I thought it was not I; but the Spirit of God in me, for I did think I could not speak it; and therefore had written it in the Letter. He told me, may be it would take him an Hour to read it, and pluck'd out his Watch, to see how long he should be reading of it. I told him, it would not take him an Hour to read it, but it might take him more to consider it; for I had study'd many to put it into the Compass, out of the Multitude of Grief that was upon my Spirits. When he had read it, he said, I believe you will go to Heaven at last. He said, when you came to me, before you came reflecting upon Mrs. *Gooding*. I said, and well I might. Then he said, he lov'd me as a Christian, and he lov'd me as another; and he stated it a third time how he lov'd me. Then I apprehended him, and said, nay, truly, Sir, I do not speak for Favour nor Affection, but the Truth, as God requires of me. I ask'd, whether he could not tell me whether that was by the Spirit of God or the Devil, and told him, I would clear it up. He sat himself with all his Might to distract me; he spoke as sharp as he could utter his Words; he bid me look to my own Soul. I said, so I do, Sir. He said, well does that grow. I said, yes, Sir, God has shewn me how he has made my Soul to grow from a Babe to a Stature in Christ; and God has shewn me how he has made my Soul to flourish in his House. He said, well, are you sensible of ~~id~~ dwelling Corruption? I said, yes, Sir; for I am a sensual Creature, and in me is the Seed of all Sin; but I can say, I have been kept by the Power of God, thro' Faith unto Salvation; I can say, I have walk'd by the Spirit, and rejoyce in Christ Jesus, and I have no Confidence in the Flesh; and I can say, with the Apostle, if Need be, ye are in Heaviness for a Season, but the Tryal of your Faith is more precious than that of Gold.

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Gold. I told him, I heard a Sermon from these Words, above eighteen Years ago ; *O that the Lord might be my Meditation all the Day long* ; and the Lord set it Home, and made me earnestly desire he might be my Meditation all the Day long. I told of another, I heard above seventeen Years ago, where the Minister wish'd he knew how to speak more terrible Words, for the good of our Souls and his own, and my Heart said, Amen, Amen, to them Words. For I thought, I did not care how terrible it was, so that my Heart was made better. I told of another, I heard a great many Years before, the whole Sermon was against the Sin of lying and covetousness. I told Mr. *Ridgly*, I had often wish'd, that he, and all the Ministers in *London*, would preach upon that, the Reason why I had wish'd it was, because it is an Abomination in the sight of God, and I had suffered much injury by Lyars, and grieving at that when he saw he could not confound me, then he would please me ; he said, I was a Christian, and I would go to Heaven ; and he was to tell me so. I said several times more, I would clear up those Charges, and if he would not do it, I would go to another ; for I would justify every Word I had spoken, and written in my Letter-Book, and Bills. I would not flinch from one Word or Tittle I had spoken, or written. He charg'd me not to go to another Minister ; I desir'd a Dismission. He said, must he suffer for them ? And ask'd three times, whether I would have him tell me, that I was without Sin ? I told him, no ; for if he did, he would be a Deceiver, and I would not have him. So he told me, he could not clear it up within a Fortnight. I went again to him, and told him, God had clear'd the Matter to me. I ask'd, how can I sit down with them, that think what I have done, is by the Spirit of the Devil ? And I prov'd to him, it was by the Spirit of God. He said, I might, as long as they thought I had Grace. My great Grief, was, at the great Dishonour that was done to God ; and my concern, was, for his Glory ; and the End I spoke it for, was, that Mr. *Gouge* might be humbl'd before the Lord, and reform these Things in his Practices. And this could not be by the Spirit of the Devil, but by the Spirit of God. I told him, I could forgive all the Wrongs and Injuries I had gone through, upon this Condition, that I never be more reflected upon for these Things. I desir'd him to clear me to Mr. *Pindar*, Mr. *Handcock*, Mr. *Savize*, Mr. *Barton*, Mr. *Yeatman* altogether ; for they had griev'd me. I desir'd, that Mr. *Vandick*, and Mr. *Culbues*, might be Witnesses, because they never had griev'd me. I told him I lay under the same Slander about Mr. *Barton*, as I did about Mr. *Gouge* ; and told him, that Mr. *Pindar* had acted like a Child in putting such Constructions on my Book. I was yet ignorant, that Mr. *Ridgly* had been the Founder of these Scandals. He said, he would go to them severally, and he might tell them if they had nothing against me, I had nothing against them. When I was at Home, and consider'd what he said, I found this was Hypocrisy ; for this was not clearing of me ; for he should have told them all that what I had done, was for the Glory of God ; and that he gave his Judgment, I had rightly apply'd the Scriptures. I sent a Letter, as follows :

Honoured Sir,

November 30. 1704.

I Am very sorry I forgot some Things, that were as I have been so great a Sufferer, when I had given full Satisfaction to you about what I had spoken to Mr. Gouge, before you were our Pastor, according to the Church's desire, and since prov'd by six Scriptures, what Mr. Barton had done to be Sinful, you your self being forc'd to own I had rightly apply'd the Scriptures, I meeting with such reflections on that Account, and finding such bad Memories amongst you all, I do desire two or three Lines from your self, with those five or seven Brethrens Hands to it, that I never more be reflected on on those accounts, and that Mrs. Gooding shall never be mention'd to me, and I be receiv'd as one that never had been amongst them; and now was to come upon this Condition, I promise to forgive all, and never to rehearse any Thing again; and if this is not thought well off, I desire no farther Trouble may be about it, but desire a Dismission from them, to Mr. Shorts's Church.

Sarah Peirce.

After this, he sent two of the Brethren to tell me, their was no Body had any Thing against me. I told them, I would not come to hear him again, till I had it from under his Hand, and them five Brethrens Hands to it, that I should not be reflected upon any more for those Things, when I had forgiven such great Wrongs, and they had abus'd me more and more for clearing up my Innocence. After this, I was sent for to the Vestry by three Messengers with Hypocrisy to a Witness, Mr. Pindar pretended to reprove me for slaying twice from the Lord's Supper, and pretending offence, and none given me. I told him of his, and Mr. Barton's incensing Mr. Handcock with such Wicked things. I told him of his, and Mr. Ridgly so often Questioning that Bill, and refus'd to give Praise to God once, where so much Praise was due to his Name, and incens'd the People, that I was a Hypocrite. He said, I put up the Bill to exalt my self, because I had not found out the depth of their Wickedness, that it was against the Spirit of God. Mr. Ridgly said, it was a great Matter he had done, was it not? I told Mr. Pindar of his Putting such constructions upon my Book. Mr. Yeatman said, he thought I was craz'd, and to prove what I said to Mr. Gouge, was by the Spirit of the Devil. He said, why, you could never remember it all else. I offer'd to forgive them, if they acknowledged their Faults, and gave it under their Hands, I should not be reflected upon any more for those things. Mr. Pindar told me, they would not, but if I would not come there, they would deal with me. I said, if you do, do you think all the Churches in London shall not know of it? For I will declare all your Carriages and Dealings towards me. Mr. Ridgly said, was there none in the Church, I would leave it to? I said no; because they had dealt so Treacherously by me already. I said I would leave it to one Minister. He said, no, for they were a Church of themselves. Then I said, if he would give his Judgment upon those things without canting, I would leave it to him. He said, well, he would say of that, as of his own Doctrine; Lord,

if

if this Doctrine I Preach is not according to thy will, let it not prosper. This was not right, for Ministers are not to assert that in the Pulpit, that they have not good grounds to Believe; therefore I would hear no more. *January* the 7, 1704. I deliver'd the Case stated to Mr. *Culvis*, who was one of the Messengers; and heard me discourse the Things with them two Days after. When he had read it, I told him there I had prov'd my Duty to do that, and my courage to. He said, with tears in his Eyes, with the Sense of their Sins, that ~~were~~ so dear to him; so you have, and I am glad you had Courage to do it; and you have great cause to bless God, his Maid and Wife was present. Mr. *Ridgly*, and Mr. *Pindar* some how or other delude him, and all the rest that I went to one by one, that they should not expose them; and therefore I could have no Dismission, nor Justice done. I sent two Letters, as follows; one for Mr. *Pindar*, inclos'd in Mr. *Ridgly's*, that he might read both.

Honoured Sir,

Feb. 7. 1705.

I Once more desire a Dismission, and that I be delay'd no longer than the next Church-meeting, and that I be clear'd of all those Scandals. Sir, your Questioning of me, whether I was sensible of Dwelling in Corruption, positively proves, you still thought me a Hypocrite: There was several Plain expressions, that I was sensible of Dwelling in Corruption in that Book. This discovers your encouraging the Notions, that so spread in Peoples minds, that I might speak and write that Book, by the Spirit of the Devil. This was the Way thought best to cover every body's Sins, but it was the Lords cause I was engag'd in, therefore he has strengthen'd my Heart and Hards, to stand against all my Enemies. I desire for ever to adore his great and glorious Name. Sir, your reflecting on me, for my complaining to you of Mrs *Gooding*, when I came to you before. This discours, you thought me to come to you with a Pack of Lies: It was so from the Beginning of the World; the Devil was believ'd before God. There was none so fit for me to complain to; for you ought to have done me Justice, and to have dealt with her for her wilful and presumptuous Sinning. I am one through Grace, that has suffer'd much, because I have abhor'd doing any Thing that was Deceitful. It was great unfaithfulness to entertain such evil Thoughts; and none come to examine or reprove me, and much more unfaithful, when I have been so sorely griev'd and afflicted, with the many unchristian Carriages and Expressions to me, and about me; and I spoke to you one by one, intreating, that you would tell me, what you had against me. And you every one said, you had nothing against me, I still apprehended I was counted a Hypocrite, therefore wrote, that Book to remove all Objections, that I might walk in the Unity of the Spirit, or else I was resolv'd to desire a Dismission; the Usage I have had, has griev'd the Spirit of God in me, and persecuted the Spirit of God in me.

Sarah Peirce.

Mr. Pindar,

Mr. Pindar,

February 7. 1705.

SIR, I once more desire a Dismission, and that you clear me of all the Scandals which you have been the Occasion of insinuating into Peoples Minds. I have been counted a Liar, a Hypocrite, to be in Love with Mr. Ridgly, and that I was craz'd, and that what I had spoke, and what I had written, might be by the Spirit of the Devil. When you and Mr. Ridgly should have prais'd God on my Behalf, you both three several times said, if it is so, Lord humble that Person; and my Name was expos'd to a Room full of People, This was a positive Demonstration for all the People to know, you both counted me a Hypocrite. The Spirit of God would never question his own Work, and it was impossible for those Things to be wrote any other Way, but by the Spirit of God in my Soul; for it would have been lying to the Holy Ghost, for me to write those Expressions to praise God, if that they had not been true. The first Epistle to the Corinthians, Chap. 1. Ver. 26, 27. *For ye see your calling Brethren, not many Wise, not many Mighty, not many Noble, are call'd after the Flesh, but God hath chosen the foolish Things of the World, to confound the Wise; and God hath chosen the weak Things of the World, to confound the Things that are mighty.* The first Epistle of John, Chap. 2. Ver. 14. *I have written unto you Fathers, because ye have known him, that is from the Beginning: I have written unto you young Men, because ye are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.* In that Book there was a plain Description of the Beginning of Saving-Grace, and increasing and growing to strong Grace. I could have given a much larger Account of Things, but only for the Tedioufness of it. I express'd these Words, I was not in Love with Mr. Ridgly, nor no other Man in the World. Had I had such a Design as you possess'd Mr. Ridgly withal, I never would have put that in the Book; which was, there I did not understand nor know the Meaning of your Banter, because I had no such Thoughts: It was a Sign you both were so, and in very carnal Frames, or else you never had put such Construccions on that Book, if that could be written by the Spirit of the Devil; then is all Preaching vain? Ten Days after, you made a long Discourse in Prayer about me, to bring it out, that if my own Expressions might be believ'd, there was an immediate Hand of God went out against them, which was positively false. Now, I pray you discern from what Spirit all these abominable false Imaginations has Rise from in your Heart, thro' infinite Grace, the Word of God has been my Weapon to war with between eighteen and nineteen Years, which is the Sword of the Spirit. There was a great Judgment came upon a Nation for David's Sin, and what you falsely said of me, came upon one quick amongst you. I don't determine the Matter; we are commanded to contend earnestly against Sin. If thou bringest thy Gift to the Altar, and there remembreth thy Brother hath ought against thee, leave there thy Gift, and go first be reconcil'd, and then offer thy Gift. Suffer not Sin to rest upon thy Brother in any wise; the Righteous is bold as a Lion, but fleeth when none pursueth; the Backslider in

the wicked

Heart

Heart shall be fill'd with his own Ways; and a good Man shall be satisfy'd from himself. Thou shalt not wrest Judgment, thou shalt not respect Persons, having a good Conscience, that whereas they speak Evil of you, as of evil Doers, they may be asham'd, that falsely accuse your good Conversation in Christ. *Job, Chap. 32. Ver. 8, 9. But there is a Spirit in Man, and the Inspiration of the Almighty giveth them Understanding. Great Men are not always wise, neither do the Aged understand Judgment;* you have thought, because I was so afflicted, therefore surely she is a Hypocrite: But God has said, if you are without Chastisement, then are ye Bastards, and not Sons; and in the World ye shall have Trouble, but in me ye shall have Peace. Did you ever know great Grace, and great Faith, come any other Way than by great Tryals and Afflictions, in all the Saints in the World? If you can blot out all these Scriptures I have written out of the Book of God, then I will be the Offender,

Sarah Peirce.

The whole Reason of my writing that Book, was, to give them Satisfaction about me, and to have it from them about their unchristian Carriages and Expressions to me, and about me; for I apprehended, they thought me a Hypocrite; and I knew, my often removing look'd ill, and they had sorely griev'd my Spirit, from Time to Time; and it was the Neglect of their Duty to me, that occasion'd their evil Thoughts; for I was always willing to give Satisfaction to any Thing that was ask'd, particular Reasons were these; to walk in such a Manner, was contrary to the Word of God; and I thought, if I should ask for a Dismission, they could not give me one as they ought, because they were so full of evil Thoughts, and knew so little of my Conversation; for most of them that had been my intimate Friends, were some dead, and the rest gone in that Breach; and ~~at the same time, they were~~ The questioning so much the Truth of that Bill, and when I was taken into the Church, there was an Objection, that my Experiences were great for one of my Age, as I was told by one of the Church; and I was willing to let them know how they had griev'd me, to prevent their grieving any one as they had me. The Apostle James, saith, *Shew me thy Faith without Works, and I will shew thee my Faith by my Works;* and therefore I did so; and I was resolv'd, if I could not walk in the Unity of the Spirit, as Christ commands his Children to do, after this I would desire a Dismission from them. After this, I sent Mr. Nathaniel Youen, a Member of Mr. Brag's Church, three several Times, to intreat Mr. Pindar to give me a Dismission peaceably, and not force me to expose them, or else give it me under their Hands, for those Things they had so falsely accus'd me, I should not be reflected on any more, and I would forgive them. I declar'd to Mr. Youen and his Wife, that if I went any longer amongst that People, without I was clear'd, I should be murder'd; for I was even griev'd to Death, no Justice could I have. The Answer, was, there was no Body had any Thing against me, and he lov'd me very well, and he was sorry I had taken such Offence; and I should be very kindly receiv'd, if I would please to come there again, and sent me a Letter

to invite me. I went to Mr. *Brag*, and desir'd he would be pleas'd to go to Mr. *Ridgly* for a Dismission for me to come to his Church. I told him, there was sixteen that had griev'd me, and how several had blasphem'd the Scriptures, and how much Sicknefs I had had by their grieving me. He would not go. But I had not found out yet, that Mr. *Ridgly* was the first Inventor of those Slanders. Three Days after, I went to the Meeting-house, to desire a Dismission of the Church; I was unwilling to make any Disturbance amongst them, therefore I desir'd a Brother to tell them. Mr. *Pindar* said, here is our Sister *Peirce* on the Stairs, she is come for a Dismission; and he fram'd a Pack of Lies, and told them. And then said, Sir, won't you have her call'd? He said, no, what should I do with her? Mr. *Ridgly* knew, all I had charg'd in my Letters against them, was true, therefore he did not care to see me, because they had nothing justly against me. Mr. *Pindar* said, won't you admonish her then? He said, you may call her. I came, and he repeated what Mr. *Pindar* had put into his Mouth, and said, there was no Body expected much Acknowledgment from me, but if I did not come in a Month's Time, they would withdraw from me, for withdrawing from them. I look'd him in the Face, and said, Sir, all that you have said, is as false as a Tongue can speak: Have I been so abus'd, and is this according to the Word? Shall I come here as an Offender? I never gave one Member of this Church a just Offence in my Life; and I will never come here as an Offender. Some of the Brethren said, who abus'd you? As I was telling them, Mr. *Ridgly* invented Lies, and told them, to cause the Brethren not to suffer me to speak, and bid me go down. This was for Fear I should discover his Wickedness; for if I had said but two Words more at that Time, I had done it. After this, I went to his Lodging, he was not at Home, therefore I left Word with the young Man of the Shop, before another of the Family, I pray'd him to give me a Dismission peaceably, and not force me to expose them; for it was in my Power, to expose him and Mr. *Pindar* in an open Court. And I told of the abominable Scandals they had rais'd upon me. I went to several of the Brethrens Houses, and pray'd them to get me a Dismission. After this, the Church sent to know what I had against Mr. *Ridgly* and Mr. *Pindar*. I said, Mr. *Ridgly* is a Lyar, and a Persecutor of the Spirit of God, and not fit to be a Preacher, and Mr. *Pindar* is so too. After this, the same Men brought me a Dismission, if I would say, I was under a Church's Admonition, and had given the Church Trouble. I said, no, I never gave the Church any Trouble in my Life, but they had given me abundance of Trouble. I pray'd them to put it to an End; and I particulariz'd some more of his Wickedness to them. The Names of these Men, are, Mr. *Robert Stears*, and Mr. *John Earl*; after this, Mr. *Joun*, who had discours'd Mr. *Pindar* three times, and Mr. *Ridgly* once; he, and Mr. *Perkins* the Attorney, discours'd Mr. *Ridgly* together. After this, notwithstanding I had been so many Times myself, before I went again, and two Friends with me; after this, the Church sent to me, and said, if I would come to the next Church-meeting,

meeting, and give Satisfaction concerning Mr. *Barton*, they would give me an honourable Dismission. I said three times over, you may tell them, I shall think fit to come there. I went to Mr. *Samuel Strutton*, a Minister and Member of that Church, to pray him to be there to give his Judgment upon the Things written in my Papers. He said, he had heard some Things from Mr. *Ridgly* at one Time, and some Things from Mr. *Handcock* at another, that there was such Offences betwixt Mr. *Ridgly*, and Mr. *Pindar*, and Mr. *Handcock*, and me, that was irreconcilable; and he did not find, they had any Thing against me; but he had promis'd to be in another Place at that Time, but he would go to them before that Hour, and give his Vote for me. He went and discours'd them about what I said. I went to Mr. *Samuel Crisp*, Merchant, to pray him to be there, because there was something to be done about me. He said, he had heard nothing of it, and desir'd me to tell him the Matter. And when I had told him, he said, why Mr. *Ridgly*, at this Rate, must be a Hypocrite; and said, he would be there, and if he could do me any Service, he would. I said, Sir, I was loth to tell you so, but there can't be a greater upon the Earth. I went and said, Mr. *Stears*, I am come for a Dismission. He said, you must go up to them. I said, why won't you speak to them? He said, there is Mr. *Barton*. I said, Mr. *Barton*, I am come for a Dismission; he could not tell how to answer. I said again, Mr. *Barton*, I am come for a Dismission, and I desire it for my better Education. Then he said, you must go up to them. Whilst these Words were speaking, and no more, Mr. *Ridgly* and Mr. *Pindar*, and all the rest but three Men more, were gone. I stood before their Face, and spoke out aloud. I said, Mr. *Handcock*, I am come for a Dismission. He look'd in my Face, and turn'd his Face away, and could not answer; every Man was so dejected they could not answer me. The other two were Mr. *Crisp* and Mr. *Mason*, the Man I sent the Answer by. I said, why did you send for me, and say, you would give me an honourable Dismission, if I came and gave Satisfaction concerning Mr. *Barton*, and now no Body will speak to me? I said, well, Gentlemen, I will take another Course. Here the Lord answer'd that Faith he gave me; for I had told Mr. *Pitman*, his Wife, and Daughter, in the Strength of the Lord would I go before all mine Enemies, notwithstanding they had every Man singly deny'd all, when I took Mrs. *Pitman* and another Friend with me, because they never had no just Cause from me, to say one of these Scandals, therefore was asham'd to own it. I said, my very Presence coming before them, God could strike them, so that not a Man should be able to deny the Things. I went directly to Mr. *Nesbets*, and left my Book, and the Copy of my Letters and Bills, and what Mr. *Barton* and the rest had said to me, and all that I did say to Mr. *Gouge*; and told his Wife at the same Time, my Desire was to be a Member of his Church. After he had read them, he said twice over, get rid of them, I think you have had enough of them, and said, you should bring it before the Church, and said, after that, he would assist me. I ask'd him, whether he had found any Thing unsound I had written? He said, no, he had not.

December

December 18. 1705. The Church sent to me, to know, whether I would pass all by, and come and sit down with them again; and if not, if I would tell where I would go, they would see to give me a Dismission. I told them where, and they used many Arguments to have me go to another; and said, if I would go there they would see to give me one, if they would receive me. I said, if they would not, it was because they had Slander'd me; and therefore I would be clear'd before the whole Church; for it was God's Command, that I should bring it before the Church, and they deny'd his Word, if they would not do it. After Mr. Nesbet had read my Papers, I carry'd them to Mr. Perkins, and after to Mr. Struton, and after to Mr. Crisp, and they were read at every House, and they clear'd me to some of the Brethren, of giving Offence; and that I had suffer'd the Wrong, and brought them to that compliance. I was forc'd to go from House to House, and tell them, Mr. Ridgely and Mr. Pindar, had committed the Sin against the Holy Ghost, and in confounding my Book, they had confounded the whole Doctrine of Salvation; and if they would not let it come before the Church, I would Print my Book. Notwithstanding this, Mr. Ridgely, and Mr. Pindar did insinuate and delude every Man, that there was not one would read one Paper. It was carry'd before the Church, and they contriv'd as every Charge was prov'd, they would vote that they would make it no Charge; and by doing this, they violated the whole Book of God. All promises, all the Threats, all Commands and Precipts, were violated by these Votes. Now, these may well be compar'd to the Church of the *Laodiceans*, which was neither Cold nor Hot; which Christ saith, he will spew out of his Mouth; *Revelations* the 3. from the 13. to the 17th. Here is six Things, this Malice rose in Mr. Ridgely's Heart against me. First I told him, that I had Idoliz'd Mr. Gouge; for I thought I could have venter'd my Life upon every Word that came from his Mouth, but God had shew'd me my Sin, and I hope I should never love no Man like him again. Here he found the highest Affection would not blind me. Secondly, I told him, I had been like to have been murder'd or poyson'd by the Cook-maid, for not going finer, and my Mistress told me, I need not scruple going fine, for my Pastor was a Man of Latitude enough. I told her, no Man should be my example, but the word of God should be my example. Here he found interest would not byass me. Thirdly, I told him what a desirable Church ours was, in Mr. Finch's time; and I pray'd him to set up our Day of Prayers once a Month, and our weekly Lecture again. He said, he would not do both; if they would have a Day of Prayers, he would not preach a Sermon once a Month, but if they would have him preach a Sermon once a Month, he would not have a Day of Prayer: But if they would meet, and pray before he came to preach, they might; but, he said, he would be at a Certainty about it. I made no reply. The fifth Thing I told him, how I had been reflected upon, for Mr. Gouge's not visiting the Church more. I pray'd him to do it. He said very freely, he thought, he could

visit.

visit the Church ~~once~~ in half a Year. Then I again pray'd him to do it. The sixth Thing, was, because I said, how I was griev'd at Mr. Gouge's saying one Thing, and doing another. Now I prove this from his own Words. First, His telling me that he would be at a Certainty about that; for he would not do both. He finding by their discoursing, they had a great Affection for me, he fear'd, I would stir them up to have the Days of Prayer and Lecture, and him to visit the Church, and if he said one Thing and did another, he fear'd, I would tell him of that; therefore he invented these Abominable slanders upon me, to cause them to afflict me, and not mind any Thing I should say, that I might be driven to Distracted or Despair; and then he would have said, their was a Judgment upon me for speaking to Mr. Gouge; this is prov'd by Mr. Pindar's expressions in Prayer: His end, was, that none might dare to contradict him. Secondly, I prov'd this by his telling me, if he did so himself, he should not be willing to be told of it, at that time, when I pleaded so much with him to justify or condemn me; and he told the Church, that he told me this was impertinence. My saying I was griev'd at Mr. Gouge's blaming the Church so much, before a great Number of Strangers, for not being exactly at the Time; and said, whether we come or not, he would begin exactly at three a Clock, he din'd in the House, where we was to come, and was there, and did not come into the Room, till about half an Hour after by the Clock of the House. Thirdly, I was griev'd, that he set the People such an evil Example, to make no matter of their Words. Here Mr. Ridgely made the Word of God of no effect, by setting up his Traditions to oppose God's express commands. Fourthly, I prove his Malice, for stirring him up to visit the Church, by his showing such Displeasure at the Bill, that was a Question, that the People reported, they fear'd I would break his Heart. Half a Year after, I left the Church, I consider'd what should be the meaning I could not have a Dismissal from under their Hand; that I should not be reflected upon any more for these Things they had so falsely accus'd me of, having us'd all manner of means to get it in a Peaceable Way; for it was very easy for him to clear me to the Church, if they had invented these Things, and discours'd it into him, as I thought it had been, when I went to him to clear me, but then I was made to see he was the Founder of these Things, and discours'd it into them, and had pray'd it into them, and after Preacht it into them. This I prov'd from his own Words. He said, he had made a Search within the Church and without, about my Conversation; and that I never had given one just Offence, and he said, he knew he did own that I had rightly apply'd the Scriptures concerning the Offence Mr. Barton gave me: But what he did to clear me, was this, he deluded them to believe I was craz'd, and therefore I might do all these things by a Delusion; but he Thought the Root of the Matter was in me, therefore he had nothing against me. For what was I, that I should pretend to such Revelations? He had as much cause to say, I was dead, as craz'd. He knew, all that I said to him

him every time, and what I said to Mr. Gouge, and what I writ in my Bills and Book, was very much to promote the Glory of God, and therefore must be ascrib'd to be the Work of the Spirit of God in my Heart. His telling me, when I came to him before, I came reflecting upon Mrs. Gooding, discover'd a great Mystery to me, and then stated the Case how he Lov'd me. This positively prov'd, he Maliciously pretended, that I invented such Packs of Lies, from Time to Time to get into his Company, to elevate his Affections. This discover'd the meaning of his and Mr. Pindar's bantering me about my Book; and this positively prov'd to me, he preach'd these following Things about me, three Months before. He said, God had not blest'd them in all their Ambitious undertakings, with other Reflections, which incens'd the People with what he had privately discours'd into them, that what I said to Mr. Gouge, and to him, and what I writ in my Bills and Book, I had done it out of Pride, to Show my Parts, to elevate his Affections. I was greatly griev'd under that Sermon, thinking it was about me. I examin'd my Heart, and then I could appeal to God, I had neither spoken nor written any Thing with an Ambitious design; but in Simplicity, and Godly sincerity, I did it for the Glory of God, and the good of my own Soul, and others; therefore I was not sure it was I, and I had forgot that. But his chiding me so very much for my discoursing about his Preaching about me, and his telling me he could not clear me to five Brethren, made me at last remember this; and he told the Church, that he never heard of my being in Love with him, till I writ to him about it in my Letter. He said this, to clear Mr. Pindar of inventing it. I told him, I never had found it out, clear my self, if he had not stated the Case how he lov'd me: And his banters about my Book, prov'd it. Mr. Perkins and Mr. Crisp said, aye, so it did. His saying he never heard of it, prov'd he invented it himself. Pride and Malice made Glorious Angels Devils; and it could be nothing else, that made Mr. Ridgely blaspheme the Work of the Spirit of God in me, which was the Sin against the Holy Ghost, before he was our Pastor; for he knew nothing could be more to promote the Glory of God, than what I had said to Mr. Gouge and himself. If I had done these Things by a Delusion, that must have been by the Spirit of the Devil, if I had written Lies out of Pride, to praise God, and to be prais'd for, and pretended I had greater Faith in God, than I had, and that I had receiv'd greater Consolations from God, and greater discourses of his Grace wrought in me, than I had receiv'd, out of Pride, that would have been lying to the Holy Ghost, and I could not have had Grace, nor been in Christ. This I prove by Ananias and Sapphira, in keeping back Part of their Possession. The Apostle said, thou hast not ly'd unto Man only, but unto the Holy Ghost, and they fell down Dead, and was damn'd for all. Sin is said to be damnable, without Repentance; and they had no time for Repentance. I prove he deluded the People to believe damnable Principles, and he preach'd Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, when he said God has not blest them in all

all their ambitious Undertakings. If I had done these Things out of Pride, by Head knowledge, that must have been by the Spirit of the Devil, his preaching and discoursing it into them, that I might do all these Things so, and yet I might have a Spark of Grace, was damnable Doctrine. This is what the *Pharisees* did in *Matthew*, Chap. 12. where they said, Christ cast out Devils by *Beelzebub*, the Prince of the Devils. Christ saith, whosoever speaketh a Word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this World, nor in the World to come. It was not Christ's being God-man, that made what the *Pharisees* said to be the Sin against the Holy Ghost, but it was the Work of the Spirit of God; they said it was done by the Spirit of the Devil. If I had sate down with them after the People discover'd to me, they believ'd what I had done was by the Spirit of the Devil, without clearing of it up. I must have been guilty of the Sin against the Holy Ghost, if I had suffer'd the Work of the Spirit of God to be counted to be the Work of the Devil, as Mr. *Ridgely* advis'd me to do, and charg'd me not to go to another Minister, because he knew he should be condemn'd, and I should be justify'd. *Judas's* conversation must be suppos'd to be as far as the other Disciples, or else they might have easily suspected him, when Christ said one of you is a Devil. The Action did not look like Malice, when *Judas* said, hail, Master, and kiss'd him: No more did this, when Mr. *Ridgely* wish'd me a good Morning, before he was my Pastor, and his thanking me for my good Company; but now it is discover'd, he at the same time Maliciously harbour'd in his Heart, that I put up them Bills out of Pride, to get into his Affections, when I so often pray'd him to deal faithfully and plainly with me. He said, he was not dissatisfy'd with me, for there was no Sin in putting up a Bill, that was to besure. I did not know the meaning why he excus'd his showing such Displeasure at the Question, by saying, he did not know it was mine then. *Hebrews*, Chap. 6. Ver. 4, 5, 6. For it is imposible for those, who were once enlighten'd, and have tasted of the Heavenly Gift, and were made Partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good Word of God, and the Powers of the World to come, if they shall fall, to renew them again to Repentance, ~~being~~ they crucify to themselves the Son of God a-fresh, and put him to an open Shame. *Hebrews*, Chap. 10. Ver. 26, 27. For if we Sin wilfully, after that we have receiv'd the Knowledge of the Truth, there remaineth no more Sacrifice for Sins, but a Certain fearful looking for of Judgment, and fiery Indignation, which shall devour the Adversaries. *John*, Chap. 3. Ver. 8. He that committeh Sin, is of the Devil, The first Epistle of St. *John*, Chap. 4. Ver. 20. If a Man say, I love God, and hateth his Brother, he is a Lier; for he that loveth not his Brother, that he hath seen, how can he love God, whom he hath not seen? *Corinthians*, Chap. 13. Ver. 2, 3. Though I speak with the Tongues of Men, and of Angels, and have not Charity, I am become as sounding Brass, or a tinkling Cymbal;

bal ; and though I have the Gifts of Prophecy and understand all Mysterics, and all knowledge ; and though I have all Faith, so that I could remove Mountains, and have not Charity, I am nothing ; and though I bestow all my Goods to feed the Poor, and though I give my Body to be burn'd, and have not Charity, it profiteth me nothing. Their could be no Charity in Mr. *Ridgly*, and Mr. *Pindar*, when they pretended I had writen Lies, to praise God, and to be pray'd for, and refused to praise God. The Spirit of God would never Question his own Work, nor bring false imaginations into Peoples minds ; therefore I prove, they pray'd by the Spirit of the Devil about me at that time, by insensing into the People, that I was a Hypocrite, and Mr. *Pindar* at another time, when he said a down right Lie in Prayer, to make the People think there was a Judgment upon me, for speaking to Mr. *Gouge*. I desir'd Mr. *Barton*, to bring my matters before the Church again, because it was done in a Mystery to the greatest Part of the Church ; for there was a great Deal of my sufferings hid, and their Wickedness. He said, they were a Church of themselves, and they might do what they would, and none had to do with them ; indeed if he wrong'd a Servant, they might have him before a Justice of the Peace. I told him, Ministers were Justices of Peace for Churches, He said, no, they had nothing to do with them. I pray the Reader to use your Bible, and read the following Scriptures, *Jeremy*, Chap. 23. *Levit.* 19. Chap. 11. Ver. 15. 1 *Cor.* Chap. 26. Ver. 27. 1 *Peter*, Chap. 24. 14. 15, 16. *Dutry*. Chap. 13. & *John*, 24. He that saith I know him, and keepeth not his Commandments, is a Lier, and the Truth is not in him ; and Christ saith, whatsoever you do unto one of these Little ones that believe in me, you do it unto me ; and he hath said, Heaven and Earth shall pass away, before one Word of mine shall fall. After I had it before the Church, I sent Mr. *Pemmerton*, one of Mr. *Nesbet's* Church, two several times, to desire Mr. *Nesbet* to send two of his Members to Mr. *Ridgly's* Church, to know what they had against me ; but no intreaty would prevail. He spake to Mr. *Ridgly*, and Mr. *Pindar*, and they said, they had dealt with me, and would hear no more of me ; and Mr. *Ridgly* said, he hardly knew me. When Mr. *Nesbet* told me this, I told him all that I had said to Mr. *Ridgly*, when my Witnesses was with me. He laugh'd at that, because he knew Mr. *Ridgly* must be Guilty. I desir'd him to speak with Mr. *Perkins*, and he did ; and he own'd, I suffer'd the Wrong, and that they had nothing against me ; and that he would have had them made an end of it then. I had often beg'd of Mr. *Nesbet* to speak with Mr. *Struton*, and ask him, whether or no I did not prove my Charges ? Or whether or no they had any Thing against me ? He promis'd he would do that, and told my Sister and I together, he would do what he could, to bring us Face to Face. I met Mr. *Struton*, and got a Promise to meet Mr. *Nesbet*, we met together June the 25. 1706. at twelve a Clock, at the *Amsterdam* Coffee-House. Mr. *Nesbet* discours'd him so long, that Mr. *Pitman* said, I believe we shall not speak with him at all. After that they desir'd

fin'd we would walk up, they look'd me in the Face, and said, what have you to say to Mr. *Struton*? As I nam'd the Charges, he hung down his Head, and smil'd; but upon my putting Things very close to him, he look'd Mr. *Nesbet* in the Face, and said there is three Men has given her Offence.

Mr. *Nesbet* had ask'd me, where are your living Witnesses? I pluck'd out the Paper I had under my Witnesses Hands, and said, here is my living Witnesses. He turn'd it away with his Hand, and would not read it; Mrs. *Petman* was present, Mr. *Herick* and two other Gentlemen. About half an Hour after we parted, Mr. *Nesbet* met me in *Broad-Street*; I made great Way for him to go by me, but he came to me, and said, if I could think of any other Way he could serve me, he would do it. Then I desir'd him to read the Paper I had under my Witnesses Hands, and another which was the Manner how it was prov'd before the Church. He would not do it, but said again, if I could think of any other Way he could serve me, he would do it. Then I said, Sir, do this for me, which was your own Proposal, that I propose my self to a Church, and they should send two Messengers to Mr. *Ridgely's* Church, to know what they had against me. He said, no, I should not come to propose my self to his Church; but he said again, if I could think of any other Way he could serve me, he would. Then I said, Sir, will you be at *Pinner's-Hall* next Monday? and I will come and lay it before the Ministers. He said, he should not be there, for he was to preach on Tuesday. He repeated it several times more the same Words; and added, if I could get some of them to meet him, he would meet 'em. I went to Mr. *Grissp*, to Mr. *Barton*, to Mr. *Stears*, to Mr. *Lackson*, and I desir'd them, and Mr. *Savage*, and Mr. *Perkins*, would be pleas'd to meet Mr. *Nesbet*, but they would not, because there was nothing could be found against me. These Men heard my Charges prov'd. After this, I went to the Reverend Mr. *John Spademan*, that learned and faithful Divine. I earnestly desir'd he would be pleas'd to hear the whole Matter, and then to give his Judgment, whether I was uncharitable in charging them with the Sin against the Holy Ghost. He faithfully caution'd me against speaking of it, and said, he hop'd I remember'd he was not to receive an Accusation against an Elder, without two or three Witnesses. I said, yes; and therefore I had brought him Witnesses. He faithfully examin'd me, wherever he could put a Quære against me: And after he had heard the whole Matter, he said these Words, well, I think it is just *Job's* Case; and I think you have been very unkindly treated, and very hardly dealt withal; and he could not say, that I was uncharitable in charging them with the Sin against the Holy Ghost; and I was three times with him, before all this could be done. After this, I went to Mr. *Clark*, the Minister; I begg'd of him to read the Book, Bills, Letters, and all my other Papers that I had under my Witnesses Hands; and he said, he did not believe, that Mr. *Ridgely* was as wicked a Man as liv'd on the Earth. I pray'd him to read all my Papers, and if I had not prov'd him so, I desir'd he would say the Worst he could to me, when I came. After he had read
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my Papers, the Worst he could say to me, was, they speak as if you was craz'd. I told him many times, if they would not put an End to it, I would print it. I desir'd him to bring it before the Ministers at *Pinner's-Hall*; I told him, Mr. *Nesbet* should assist him. He said, if I could engage Mr. *Nesbet* to assist him, he would bring it there. I took Mrs. *Pitman* with me to Mr. *Nesbets*; I acquainted him, that I went to several of the Members, and they would not meet him; therefore I desir'd he would assist Mr. *Clark*, in laying the Matters before the Ministers. He did not know Mrs. *Pitman* again, and thinking her to be a Stranger to the Matter, he laugh'd at me, and said, he could not tell what to make of it. I look'd him in the Face, and said, how, Sir! did not you your self in this very Room, say, get rid of them, get rid of them? He said, he believ'd I had suffer'd great Oppressions. I told him, he was as conscious to it all, as my self; by the Manner of Mr. *Struton's* Carriage, while I discours'd it. I told him how he look'd up in his Face, and said, there is three Men has given her Offence. He was very angry with me, and several times said, he own'd nothing I said. Nay, Sir, this Gentlewoman was there. He said, was you there? She said, yes; and repeated the same Things to him; and added this, that she had heard several of them say, they had nothing against me; therefore she wonder'd they would not give me a Dismission. He aggravated me very much, and as I was giving a particular Account of Things, he several Times aggravated me, and made me talk of other Things; and then said, he did not know what I said; and ask'd Mrs. *Pitman*, if she knew what I said, to pretend I was craz'd, to cover all this Wickedness? She said, yes, she knew what I said. I ask'd him several times before he would give me an Answer, whether I could write Lies to the Holy Ghost out of Pride, and yet be in Christ? He said, no; but he made me promise I would not come there at last. He promis'd me he would assist Mr. *Clark* all he could; but it was in this Way, in pretending that I was craz'd, and if they would not say as I said, I would come and cratch their Faces; but I never did yet to Man or Woman. *November 4. 1706.* I sent some of my Witnesses to *Pinner's-Hall*, by whom Mr. *Nesbet* and Mr. *Clark* sent me this Answer, they had spoke to Mr. *Ridgely*, and he would not come there to answer my Papers, notwithstanding I sent him Word I would not be there. He told them, they had dealt with me, and he would hear no more of me. They ask'd him, if it was register'd in the Church-Book? And if it was, they desir'd to see a Copy for what they had done it for; Mr. *Clark* added this, that I should propose my self to a Church, and they should send two Messengers to know what they had against me. I and my Sister went the next Day, to desire that Favour of Mr. *Clark*. He said, he had nothing to say to me, only to give me my Papers again. My Sister desir'd Leave to discourse with him. He said, she might, and she did. After this, when I took Friends with me, he told me, I was craz'd; but he never said so to me, 'till after Mr. *Nesbet* spoke to him at *Pinner's-Hall*; and I had been with him four times; and he told my Witnesses at *Pinner's-Hall*, they said I was craz'd, but he did not perceive

perceive it by me ; and Mr. Nesbet told all the Ministers he had read all my Papers, and he had had a great deal of Trouble about me ; and he call'd Mr. Clark away, from hearing what my Witnesses said to him. He knew, if I had come my self, I would have laid it all open to the Ministers ; therefore he made me promise I would not come ; and there was none of them would send to the Church for me, the Reason must be this, for Fear I should not be able to get my Living, through the abundance of Sickness and Weakness, by grieving at those Things : For to question my Interest in Christ, according to what I had written of my Conversation, and my Witnesses had given under their Hands of my Life and Conversation, they must confound the whole Doctrine of Salvation. After this, I went to these two faithful Servants of Christ, and desir'd of them, if they judg'd me in my right Senses, that they would be pleas'd to give it me under their Hands, which they did do ; and they also have read my Book, Bills, Letters, and other Papers, notwithstanding they have discours'd me.

Upon the sixth Day of *January* following, I went to *Pinner's-Hall*, I desir'd of the whole Board of Ministers to hear my Case ; I told them, such a Case had not been heard of in the World. Before I came away, Mr. Nesbet read the Paper I had under Mr. Spademan and Mr. Pomphret's Hand, and another Paper under my Witnesses Hands, against Mr. Ridgly. He said, I believe he knew of your coming, for he is not here to Night, and we shall be here this Day Month again. A Gentleman that went with me, desir'd him to put an End to it. He said, he knew all the whole Matter, and he would do what he could for me. The Gentleman desir'd the same of Mr. Brag. After they were gone into the Street, that Day Month I went again. Then they said, they could do nothing, because Mr. Ridgly was not there. Mrs. Longfan said, it is very hard, that she can't sit down in one Church, nor in another. I told Mr. Nesbet he knew that they had nothing against me, and that Mr. Clark knew it too. I told him, Mr. Struton smil'd when I nam'd the Charges ; but at last he lifted up his Head, and look'd you in the Face, and said, there is three Men has given her Offence. I told them, they three ware Mr. Ridgly, Mr. Pindar, and Mr. Handcock, which were the Founders of all these Slanders. Mr. Nesbet several times deny'd, that Mr. Struton own'd any Thing, notwithstanding Mrs. Pitman made him own it in his own House. I said several times to him before the Ministers, you know I have Witnesses of it. At last, he said, there was none but a Gentlewoman there. I said, there was Mr. Herick too. Some Months after, I met Mr. Ridgly at *Pinner's-Hall*, and declar'd it to his Face. Mr. Spademan discours'd Mr. Nesbet ; and he told Mr. Spademan, he had reprov'd Mr. Ridgly, and several of the Members ; and that he told them, they had done what they could not stand by, and they had done that they could not justify ; and that he had done all that he could for me. But notwithstanding I had a Jealousy that he was my Enemy, and I think I had very good Reason to think so, but he said, he would see what he could do. When Mr. Spademan had told these Things to me, and a Friend that
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was with me, Mr. Nesbet came in and smil'd upon me, and said, how do'st thou do Mrs. Pierce? What ar't thou not got out of thy long Trouble yet? I said, Sir, it was in your Power to put it to an End at first; if you would have sent two Messengers to the Church, they would have said, they had nothing against me; and you knew Mr. Ridgly must be guilty, when I told you what I had Witness of that I said to his Face, because he had told you, that he hardly knew me. After I had had it before the Church, and you could go to Mr. Sendall for some of Mr. Larner's Church, and said, give them an honourable Dismission, or I will expose you. He said, indeed he did. For Mr. Taylor and his Wife, he deny'd several times, that I desir'd him to send Messengers to know what they had against me. I told him, my Sister did intreat him to put it to an End, and Mrs. Pitman was with me at his House, and that I had brought several others there. He has done much more Falseness about me, than I have repeated; and I told him, you are a treacherous Man; and I had told him and his Wife, the Church had taken away my Reputation and my Livelihood. I had waited half a Year, after I had had it before the Church, before he spoke with Mr. Struton, and then he would not ask him one Question before me. Now, from what Mr. Perkins said, and Mr. Ridgly said, and what Mr. Struton said, it was evident to Mr. Nesbet, that I was innocent, and had suffer'd all the Wrong from each Man's Words. Then Mr. Nesbet ought to have laid open Mr. Ridgly's Sins to the Ministers, and to have had no Fellowship with him, and convinc'd the Church of the damnable Principles that Mr. Ridgly had taught them. But instead of this, when I desir'd him to assist Mr. Clark, he said, if I come to him to go to the Change upon his Head, must he do it? I told him, if I had been rich, he would have laid it open to the Ministers long before. He said, if I would go to Mr. Pitson, the Apothecary, he would go with me. I said, you told me, that he was utterly against me, but he is a wicked Man if he is; for he would not be there to hear it try'd. Pray consider what a Friend Mr. Nesbet has been.

The second time I spoke to the Ministers at Pinner's-Hall, I said, Mr. Bray, you know I desir'd you two Years ago, to ask Mr. Ridgly for a Dismission. He said, yes, you did. I told them, if I could not prove by Scripture he had committed the Sin against the Holy Ghost, I would lie under what censure they all would please to put upon me: And Mr. Nesbet did own then, that Mr. Ridgly said, he hardly knew me. All that ever I did to offend the People or Minister, was, endeavouring to promote a holy Conversation, and the Ordinances of God. They had so much reflected upon me, and had so much afflicted me, in their pretending, that the Deceit might give me such Knowledge and Memory, they had ly'd, banter'd, canted me, so that the Devil sat hard upon me, to tempt me to think all that ever I had done, was by the Spirit of the Devil. But I desire to adore the Mercy of God in Christ, that has preserv'd my Senses, and enabl'd me to search and try what Principles I had been acted by now, for between one and two and twenty Years. Lying and every false Way, my Soul has abhor'd, and Sin has been the most bitter Thing my Soul has mourn'd for, in my self and others, because

it is against such Love, and so heinous in the Sight of God ; and this Argument has constrain'd me. Do I believe Christ has dy'd for me ? Then let me prove my Love, by yielding Obedience to his Commands ; and I have dreaded being left to the Corruption of my own Heart, more than any Evil that could come upon me : For above four Years I was looking to my Sanctification, to prove my Justification ; and then the Lord was graciously pleas'd, of his infinite Mercy to me a sinful Creature, to give his Spirit to bear witness, together with my Spirit, that I was born of God. Both when I read the Scriptures, and heard the Word preach'd, *Romans*, Chap. 8. Ver. 14, 15, 16, 17. *Colossians*, Chap. 2. Ver. 11, 12. *And he was pleas'd to let me see, that I was chosen in Christ from Eternity. Proverbs*, Chap. 8. Ver. 31. *And therefore my Care has been to do all Things as in his Sight, that I might not grieve his holy Spirit, and cause him to withdraw his Presence.* The Glory of God has been dearer to me above one and twenty Years, than any Thing in the World besides ; and I have liv'd a self-denying Life for these Years, and refus'd the Preferment of this World's good Things, which I might have had ; and chosen such Business, that I might have least Incumbrance, that I might have more Communion with God, and have most Opportunity to read and hear his Word preach'd ; and I us'd to hear on the Week Days, as well as on the Lord's Day, at all Seasons that I could get ; and I was careful to improve all Time that I could get for Prayer, Meditation, Reading the Scriptures, and other good Books. I thought these were the Ways God has promis'd to give his Spirit in ; and if there be any God, and if there be any Salvation, I must be in Christ ; and there is no other Way under Heaven given, whereby I can be sav'd, but in the Name of Christ. Then I consider'd there was but two Leaders, God and the Devil ; and if I went in my Enemy's Ways, that was the Devil's Ways ; therefore I resolv'd, if I perish'd, I would perish at the Foot of Christ ; and in the Way I have gone in, I will go, whatever I suffer from Man ; and through the free Grace of God, that has made that Change in me, I can say with the Apostle Paul, *Galatians*, Chap. 2. Ver. 20. *I am crucify'd with Christ, nevertheless I live yet ; not I, but Christ liveth in me ; and the Life which I now live in the Flesh, I live by the Faith of the Son of God, who lov'd me, and gave himself for me ;* And in *Philippians*, Chap. 3. Ver. 3. *I Corinthians*, Chap. 1. Ver. 27. *But God hath chosen the foolish Things of the World, to confound the Wise ; and God hath chosen the weak Things of the World, to confound the Mighty ; the Secrets of the Lord are with those that fear him, and those that walk close with him, he reveals his Councils to.* But after all these Considerations, how black must my Enemy's Ways appear, to think upon the charitable Constructions I had put upon their Doings ? And now it appear'd it was downright Malice ; and if I had not believ'd in the Truth of God, that he could not lie, nor alter the Thing that was gone out of his Mouth, I must have fainted ; but blessed be God, that he enabl'd me firmly to believe in the Promises which he had given me. *Isaiah*, Chap. 41. Ver. 10, 11. *In the Promise fear thou not, for I am with thee ; be not dismay'd, for I*

am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the Right Hand of my Righteousness: Behold, all they that were intent'd against thee, shall be asham'd and confounded, they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee, shall perish. Now, these Works must be ascrib'd to the Spirit of the Devil; now, whatever is done by Prejudice, Envy, Malice, Lying, Bantering, and Ganting, with an evil Design, to provoke Persons to sin against God, imagining false Things, and then report them as if they were true. All these, and abundance of it, has been done by them to me; and it is impossible to enter into the Heart of Man, the Oppression and Grief I have gone through for above eight Years, through Mr. Ridgely's Wickedness. I bless God, that he hath counted me worthy to suffer for his Name Sake; and I desire to give him the Glory, that has supported me under all the Extremities of Soul and Body. Christ saith, *Wo unto you Scribes and Pharises, ye Hypocrites, ye tithe Mint, Annis, and Cummin, and for a Pretence, make long Prayers:* These ought you to have done, but not to leave the other undone, Judgment, Mercy, and Truth: And he said, *The Publicans and Harlots should enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, before them.* It is above three Years since I left them; and by no Means that I have us'd all this Time, would they give me a Dismission. The 10th of next May will be 17 Years ago since I was admitted a Member of that Church; and I did attend all the Ordinances of God in that Place, when I could. I have suffer'd five Years in getting my Living, through these Slanders.

July 20. 1707. I acknowledge I was mistaken in charging in my Letter Mr. Pindar to be the first Inventor of these abominable Scandals upon me, and that he had incens'd these Things into Mr. Ridgely; but afterwards I have prov'd it from Mr. Ridgely's Mouth, that he himself was the Inventor of it, several Years before I knew it was done. But I had these several Reasons to charge it upon Mr. Pindar for the first. ~~First~~ I could prove they accounted me a Hypocrite, was their Expressions in Prayer; when they should have praised God on my Behalf, they several Times said, if it is so, Lord do thou humble that Person. They refus'd to give God the Glory due unto his Name; for they did not praise him once, for his great Mercies unto my Soul; and Mr. Pindar pray'd first, and us'd those Expressions three times over; and they examin'd whose Bill it was before they pray'd, and my Name was expos'd to the Room full of People: These Expressions did demonstrate, that they thought I had written Lies to the Holy Ghost, and I was griev'd by several Members so much, that I was not able to bear it no longer; therefore I writ a Book to remove all their Objections. The second Reason I had to charge them upon Mr. Pindar, was, his reporting Mr. Ridgely said, he thought I had written that Book out of some extraordinary accidental Passion. I spoke with them both together about these Reports, Mr. Pindar told me, that he believ'd I would be angry, if any Body should tell me, I was too old to be marry'd. Mr. Ridgely made a Laugh at me with Derision, and said, he did not think it worth his While to read my Book. This prov'd, that Mr. Ridgely

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Ridgely must say these Things, upon *Mr. Pindar's* Sentiments upon his reading of my Book. The third Reason I had to charge it upon *Mr. Pindar*, was, ten Days after this Time, that they both told me, there was no Body had any Thing against me, he made a long Discourse about me in Prayer, and said, there was one that had been a long time among them, that ought to be a building up others, and establish others, was going to make a Breach. These Expressions was because that I had said to them, that if I could not walk in Love, as Christ commands his Children to do, I would not walk with them. And he said, how high soever they are, if their own Expressions might be believ'd, there was an immediate Hand of God went out against them. He alluded to that weak Condition I gave an Account of I had been in in my Book, that it was a Judgment of God upon me for speaking to *Mr. Gouge*. It was a downright Lie in Prayer to God; for I was recovering of that Condition, when I spoke to *Mr. Gouge*; and there was no other Person in the Church he could speak it of, but my self. When I was in that weak Condition, I did think it was occasion'd by doing Business that was above my Strength; for I had gradually found it did me much Harm, for three Quarters of a Year before. But what I have suffer'd so often since, by their continual grieving me, has taught me, that grief did very much occasion it. I never had in all my Life laid any Thing so much to Heart, as I did the Breach of that Church, to see God dishonour'd so by such a Preacher, I thought the greatest in London; and such a Church, that had been an Example to others. I griev'd Night and Day for several Months at those Things that I spoke to *Mr. Gouge*, before I had spoke it to him; so that I had risen several Nights out of my Bed, to study how to Word it, that I might not grieve *Mr. Gouge*: It was the Dishonour that was done unto God, that wounded my Soul, and my Concern was to promote his Glory. In all my Writing, I know not of any Mistake but these two, which I had these Things to build my Thoughts upon. These Things *Mr. Pindar* spoke before I writ that Letter; and since he told me, I put up that Bill to exalt my self, that was to praise God, and be pray'd for: And when I told the Church, *Mr. Hancock* said my Peace with God might be a Delusion, *Mr. Pindar* said, so it might. I will here repeat the Words of that Bill; I am one that has been exercis'd with Variety of Afflictions, and Temptations, and Disappointments for above 16 Years together, and has been made to praise God for all these Things; and to rejoyce even for those Things, that has been most bitter to me; and has been made to triumph in and through Christ Jesus, because I had been made more than a Conqueror over the World, the Flesh, and the Devil, whose Rage had been great against me; and have been made to see how I have been kerr by the Power of God through Faith unto Salvation; and I desire all you that love and fear the Lord, to praise him with me, and for me; and also desire your Prayers, that the Lord would be pleas'd to appear for me, under my present Affliction and Condition. It was *Mr. Hancock's* reflecting so much upon me, for clearing my Innocency, when he had given his Judgment two several Times, that what *Mr. Barton* had done, was as I

took it, and read the Scriptures I apply'd, that it was sinful. When I went to intreat him to own it, he gave his Judgment; and I told him, I had convinc'd Mr. Barton of his Sin, and was reconcil'd to him. Instead of owning it, he and his Wife deny'd it, and Mr. Mason too, who gave his Judgment, Mr. Ridgely, and Mr. Pindar, altogether. When Mr. Barton examin'd the Matter, they pretended I was craz'd and wrested the Scriptures. After this, Mr. Handcock told me, I was apt to take every Thing in a wrong Sense, and I had griev'd the Brethrens Spirits, and they all told him so; and I was enough to set a whole Nation together by the Ears; and said, what I said to Mr. Gouge, might be by the Spirit of the Devil; and my Peace with God might be a Delusion. The Occasion of my putting up that Bill, was this, I was under much Weakness, that I had not Strength to work hard at my Needle, and I had very few Children to teach, being newly come to that House. The Devil tempted me very much to distrust God, and great Conflicts I was under for several Months together, for Fear the Lord should suffer me to dishonour him, by Unbelief, after he had done such great Things for my Soul. The Sense of what God had done for me before, made my Affliction very great, for Fear I should dishonour him. Now, this was on my Heart Christ said concerning the ten Lepers that was heal'd, *Where are the nine? Here is but one that returns Glory to God*; and this also was on my Heart. Mr. Pindar had several Times said in Prayer, many put up Bills to be pray'd for, but few return'd Praise. And this also was on my Heart, that Prayer was the Way to overcome the Devil. I did not lay it on the Table, because it should not be known whose it was: I gave it one out of my Hand, she gave it them, they ask'd twice over whose it was, before they pray'd? She answer'd by Guess, nam'd my Name, and said it was mine. The Room was crowded full of People, they seeing me there, and I did not contradict it, they all knew it was mine. Mr. Pindar pray'd first, he three several Times said, if it is so, Lord do thou humble that Person. Mr. Ridgely pray'd after him, and he three Times over said the same Words; and the fourth Time, he said, Lord it is their own Expressions, that all thy Ways have been Goodness and Mercy to them, for a great many Years together, do thou make that Person to show it in her Life and Conversation. He express'd it as if I had liv'd a scandalous Life; and for what I desir'd Prayer, he only said, if they are under any Affliction, Lord do thou sanctify it. They both refus'd to give God the Glory due unto his Name; for they did not once praise him, but their Words question'd, whether I had not written Lies to the Holy Ghost; and in Scripture, there was none that made a Profession of believing in Christ's named Person, but excommunicated scandalous Sinners; and I never in all my Life, had heard any pray'd for in that Manner, but one that was condemn'd to be hang'd. After this, the Devil said, what wou'd I trust God still? But I desire ever to praise God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one Essence, equal in Glory and Power, that hath enabl'd me to say, though he slay me, yet will I trust in him. Another Time, when Mr. Pindar had made a

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long Discourse about me, to make the People believe, there was a Judgment upon me for speaking to Mr. Gouge, which was a downright Lie in Prayer. The Devil tempted me to think, surely I had no Grace, because of their Prayers. But the Lord gave me this Word immediately, then there was no Consolation in Christ Jesus, if I had not Grace; bless'd be his Name for that. Here is the Words of that Bill that was a Question. Sir, I humbly desire you would be pleas'd to answer this Question, What an Account a faithful Minister can give of the Souls of them whom God hath made Overseer, who never converses with them, or at least very seldom? Here is the Copy of what I said to Mr. Gouge.

Sir, I cannot but acknowledge the great Love I have had for your Ministry, through the Blessing of God, that hath attended it, that I once Thought I could have venter'd my Life upon every Word you spoke, particularly, Sir, when you was Preaching from those Words; if any Man have not the Spirit of God, he is none of his, and that also then thou speakest in Vision to thy Holy one, and said, I have laid help upon one that is Mighty, I have exalted one Chosen out of the People, and that also; for I, through the ~~law~~, am Dead to the Law, that I might live unto God; but within two Years and a Half, I began to see that I was exalting you above what I ought; For when we met in Private, you us'd to exhort us to consider, in the Admission of Members, our satisfaction Personally, and that we were Members of one Body, and if we were not satisfy'd, we should speak, Sisters as well as Brethren. Mrs. Vandicke making a Disturbance when Mr. Pitson's Servant was taken in, the Sisters was never ask'd their Satisfaction more after, as I know of. Our Days of Prayer was appointed in our Meeting-House at ten a Clock, and made it eleven, or almost twelve, before we began. This continuing, here began the Decay of Love, at which I was troubl'd above three Years since. The Lord's Day before the Idle Days, you, Sir, came up and made a great Speech to the Church, and blam'd the Church highly, and said, you desir'd we would make Conscience of coming to seek the Lord in a Solemn manner, a whole Day, or at the Least the most Part of it. Now, I was glad at this, thinking this Day would be kept till five, or four at the least, and now, Sir, you your self dismiss'd us about three of the Clock; at which I was much troubl'd, and went to your House so soon as I could, to speak to you, or Mr. Pindar: Finding neither of you at Home, I acquainted your Deceas'd Wife, who told me, others had Complain'd of those Things, and that she had told Mr. Pindar, that by that Time almost that our Hearts were in a good Frame, we had done. I said I did not desire you should spend your self any more then you did, but that you would be pleas'd to let some more of the Brethren pray after you, or before. After this, then you, Sir, came to Preach at *Pinner's-Hall*, our Lecture was wholly laid down, the other three Weeks in the Month, before I was inform'd, was through your means, my Trouble was increas'd; and I desir'd Mr. Pindar to come to me, to whom I complain'd of these Things. After a while, I thought it
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was something better, by being nearer our Time appointed, tho' the Hour was chang'd from Ten to One. When Mr. *Hudson* and his Wife were to be taken in, you, Sir, desir'd all Strangers to go away, for there was something to be done relating to the Church; so I thought there had been some private Business; for you us'd to be for their staying. After some Account given, and they gone down, you, Sir, spoke so much about them, that if any were dissatisfy'd, there was not Room to put in a Word. I thought, when you had a Mind to have a Thing done, you could tell how to accomplish it. Something above a Year since, after the Lord's Supper, you, Sir, blam'd the Church about the Division. Meetings very much, and desir'd we would be exact at three a Clock, and said, you would begin then, whether we came or no; the Place being at Mr. *Pitson's* where I was to come, I came, fearing I had been too late, and others came after me. When we had sat down some Time, the others wonder'd you did not come; saying, you said you would begin at the Time, whether we came or not; and when you came, you gave no Reason for it. This I was much troubl'd at. Last Spring there was an Account of one, that many were dissatisfy'd about, and some of the Brethren desir'd you would be pleas'd to ask him some Questions; and you said, what Questions would they have you ask? If they would tell you, you would ask it. But the Account was so dark, there was Questions enough for you to ask, without being told. And you said, Brethren, this is the second Time any Repulse hath been made, and I hope it may be the last; to which Mr. *Hubbord* said, then, Sir, you would not have us speak at all; and Mr. *Coll* said, Sir, what are we coming into the Presbyterian-Way? After all this ado, and more, you did ask some Questions, and we was satisfy'd. Now, I was griev'd to see these Things, knowing you had formerly often told us our personal Concern in this Matter. A while after came those evil Reports Mr. *Jacob Witton* gave out, notwithstanding the Things before mention'd, I was greatly troubl'd for your good Name; and at the Monday-meeting, spoke to several of the Brethren to go or send some others, that might be more exceptable; and they told me, that four had been with him, and that he still persisted in them. After this it was reported, that you would not give them a Hearing before the Ministers. I believeing you were innocent of those Things, I desir'd you would please to give them a Hearing before the Ministers; and you Sir, said, you had given them three Hearings, and that they should quickly hear from you. This was spoken at Mr. *Wincheffes* House. About nine Months since, another Thing I was troubl'd to see, and to hear, what I heard from Strangers, by the way concerning the Dresses of your Family, saying, if you could not rule your one House, how should you rule your Flock? They said, they did not speak out of prejudice. For these Things my Soul hath mourn'd in Secret many a Time, begging the Lord to help you to walk before his People, as becomes you. Still, Sir, you are Dear to me through the Blessing of God, upon your Ministry. That Day the Act was made to turn out Mr. *Jacob's*, I came to the Meeting, under

der some, ~~since~~ there was great need of our humbling our selves before the Lord as a Church ; and the Business afterwards, I thought had been about disorderly Members ; and knowing it was our Duty and Privilege to have personal Satisfaction, I, with many more, desire'd to stay ; and we were told by several Members, that if we did stay, the Brethren would not come up, nor do any Thing.

Upon which, we went down ; I, and many more, went quite away after I heard what was done, I was much troubl'd, that you was not with us, to seek the Lord together, and that such disorders should be, for want of your presence. And this hath been a Grief to me many times, your coming late amongst us, so the next Church-meeting, was appointed for Reconciliation ; but the Breach was made much wider, by your justifying your self in those Things, that we do know you Sir, have been truly Charg'd with, your saying, there was a Difference between what you said in private, and at the Church-meetings. I thought, that God was every where, and that I would make as much Conscience of what I said to one, as to a Thousand ; and you, Sir, saying we should not speak any Thing concerning Mr. *Jacob's* in publick nor private, but we might think what we would, I was very much troubl'd at those Things, and the laying down the Lecture, and the taking so much upon you in admitting of Members, and your coming so late amongst us at the Church-meetings, and your never coming, as I know of to the Monday meeting, to incourage it, I have often thought has been the great cause of that decay of Love amongst us, I am sensible of your Indisposition of Body, and do not desire you should spend your self any more, than you do ; but Humbly beg your presence with us. And I must say with the rest, I am much troubl'd for our Brethren ~~in~~ another Thing, in answer to Mr. *Gouge's* Reflection on the Church, for our not visiting him more. I said, he had been dearer to me, than the dearest Relation I had through the Blessing of God, upon his Ministry ; and that I would often have come to wait on him, but for fear of being troublesome, because his Family was so much afflicted ; and that I verily believ'd that was the Cause. Others did not, as well as my self.

February 2. 1698. All the aforesaid Words I spake to Mr. *Gouge* in his own House, he appointed the Time for all to come that was dissatisfy'd, and he intreated us every one by one, to speak all we was dissatisfy'd at, and he intreated me several times, and said, pray be free, and speak all your Mind ; when I had spoken, the Brethren every one stood up, and said all at once, as if they had been one Man, and said, well, I think she has spoke much like a Christian. He ask'd them, if they brought me there to be a Mouth for them all ? And said, I speak my experience, for he could not contradict one Word. I thought it was not I that spoke it, but the Spirit of God that spoke it in me ; for I had written it in a Letter, thinking I could not speak it. Therefore I had all that I did speak, that was offence to Mr. *Gouge*. *April the 7. 1707.* I went to *Pinner's Hall*, Mrs. *Longfan* went with me to meet Mr. *Ridgely* ; we found him

him there. I said, Sir, I am glad to find you here, for I have been here several times to meet you here. I said, what is the Reason I have not a Dismission? What is the Reason I am under a Church-admonition? You had nothing against me; you offer'd to give it me under your Hand and Seal, that you had nothing against me, if I would forgive you. Mr. *Woots* said, Mr. *Ridgly*, what do you say to all this? He said, if you will ingage she shall hold her Tongue, I will speak. I said, if you will speak Truth, I will hold my Tongue; but if you will speak Lies, I will not, for you can do that very well. He said, can I? I said yes; for you told the Church lies both times, when I came there, or else it had been put to an End, the first time I came before the Church, if it had not been for your Lies. He said, sit down then, for I was to go a great Distance from him, and then I sat down. He said, she was a Member of that Church but a Year ago, we have withdrawn from her; she did come to me two Years ago, with several Charges against several Members; I do not know, that she had any Thing against me; there was something of a Reflection, she said of Mr. *Gouge*. He nam'd something that he fram'd that instant, and said, I think it was so, I cant tell. This was to pretend, as if it had been but one Word; and as if he never knew what it was. I said, all you have said is Lies; for Mr. *Pindar* sent me to you, before you were our Pastor, according to your own desires, to give you an Account of what I said to Mr. *Gouge*. I told them, he own'd he had made a Search within the Church and without, about my Conversation; and that I never had given one just Occasion of offence; and that he told me, he could not clear me to five Brethren, of the Charge I went to him about. I ask'd, how I could sit down with such as thought what I had done was by the Spirit of the Devil? And I did prove to him, it was by the Spirit of God; and he said, yes I might, as long as they thought I had Grace. I told them, I went to him about his Expressions in Prayer, and told him, I came because I found he was dissatisfy'd with me, by his praying so much that God would humble me. I told him, I knew it his Duty to reprove me, and mine to give him Satisfaction. I three times over intreated him to deal faithfully and plainly with me; and he said three times, he was not dissatisfy'd with me; and at that time, Maliciously harbour'd in his Heart, that I had invented all I told him of Mrs. *Gooding's* abusing me, to get into his Company. I told them, she met me in the Street, and said, why are you so fine to Day? You are in a Whores Dress; but I was in a Modest Dress: I said, I had been to see a fine Place; therefore I must be fine. She said it again, and said, I was very bold, for she had seen me come out of the Vestry from Mr. *Ridgly* two or three times. These, and several more Malicious Lies, she said to me. I told them, he sat and laugh'd, when Mr. *Yeatman* told me, I could not remember it all, else if it had not been by the Spirit of the Devil; and Mr. *Pindar* told me, I put up that Bill to exalt myself, that was to praise God, and to be pray'd for. I told them of the Bill, that was the Question, he shew'd such displeasure at, that the People reported, I was going to break his

his Heart. I told them, how I was griev'd Night and Day; and I examin'd my ~~own~~ Heart, to find out what I was counted a Hypocrite for; and beg'd of the Lord, that if I had done any Thing in Word or Deed, that he would discover it to me; for if I could have found one false Word in all my Life, concerning them, I would freely acknowledge it to the whole Church. I told them, I discours'd Mr. Ridgely and Mr. Pindar together, about the Reports. They gave out, about my Book, because I could not believe Mr. Ridgely was so wicked to do it, and they both banter'd me, so that they almost broke my Heart. I told them, because I forgave so much, the Devil possess'd him, all I had done, was Lies; so that afterwards he preach'd, that God had not bless'd them in all their Ambitious undertakings. He had preach'd before, that none could Charge me with any Sin; and that I had great Spiritual Gifts; yea, abounded with Spiritual Gifts. Another time, he preach'd I might live such a Spotless Life by Sense, and I might forgive so much, being one of an affable Temper.

Another time, he preach'd all these natural Parts and Endowments should perish; but their might be a spark of Grace, and that would grow up and abide. Mr. Woots said, did he allow you had a spark of Grace? I said, yes. I told them, that he had preach'd many Sermons about me; and two of them was as terrible, as a Man could preach. Mr. Woots said, you fancy'd he preach'd about you. I said, I went and discours'd him about them, and made him own, he preach'd them upon my Account. I told them he had committed the Sin against the Holy Ghost, and that he had preach'd Blasphemy in the Pulpit, and taught the People damnable Doctrine. I shew'd them their Letters in my Hand, that they had nothing against me, and invited me to them again; and I shew'd them the Paper I had under my Witnesses Hands, how they had abus'd me. I desir'd he might be turn'd out of the Ministry, because Christ saith, in Revelations Chap. 2. What Judgments he will bring upon the Angels of the Churches, that he commends highly for their other Graces, for suffering such to preach, that taught the People to Sin; and this is what Mr. Ridgely hath done. Mr. Woots said, the Church should do it. I said, he had wheedl'd them, that they would not; and he had been the Founder of all those Scandals upon me; and he was a Minister; therefore I came to them to do it, he said if they were Presbyterians, they should hold with what I said; but they were Independants, and they profess'd in their Judgments against judging of Ministers. I ask'd, if Christ was not the Head of his Church? He said, yes. I said, it is his Command. He said again, if they were Presbyterians, they should hold with what I said, but they profess'd against it. I said again, is not Christ the Head of his Church? He said, yes. I said it is his Command. I ask'd them, how they could so cheat themselves with such a Man as this? I said, this was in their Power. I told them, I had not heard him preach almost two Years and Half. I told them, he told me, he sent two Messengers to tell me, there was no Body had any Thing against me, but he

never clear'd me of the Things I went to him about. I told them, Mr. Perkin's, the Attorney, did not hold up his Hands once to Vote *any* one Thing should be no charge; and I suppos'd he was as able to make a Judgment, whether they were or not, as any Man there. I said, Mr. Collins, you know Mr. Youen; he is one of your Church. I sent him three times to intreat Mr. Pindar to give me a Dismissi- on peaceably, before I expos'd them to ~~one~~ Minister. I said, Mr. Collins, you have seen me here before. He said, yes, I have seen you here once or twice. I said, and I have been at your House, and with several of your People. I said, Mr. Woots and you, have seen me here before. He said, yes, I have seen you here two or three times. I said, a Murderer don't condemn himself to the Judge, but the Witnesses proves against him, and he is hang'd. And here is Witnesses; and a Thief does not condemn himself, but the Witnesses comes and proves against him, and he is hang'd; and here is Witnesses. When Mr. Ridgly heard me prove it so, he fetcht two little Sighs but he did not contradict one Word. I said, in that Place, there was a Gentleman, I suppose, brings up young Students, for there was two. They was examining in their *Latin*, he said, have they nothing against you? I said, no, that has been try'd before the Church, and nothing could be found against me, that a sinful Creature can be free from, I desir'd Mr. Woots, and Mr. Collins, to tell Mr. Nesbet, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Brag, I had been there and declar'd these Things to Mr. Ridgly's Face. I told them, I had done it Solemnly, as I should answer it before the Lord at the last Day. I told them, I could bring the Gentlefolks of the House to Witness that I left Word with them, I pray'd him to give me a Dismissi- on peaceably, and not force me to expose him; for it was in my Power to expose him and Mr. Pindar in an open Court. I told them, Mr. Nesbet and Mr. Clark had read my Book, Bills, and Letters, and my other Papers, and that Mr. Nesbet said, he thought I had enough of them, when he saw what I had forgiven. I also told them, he had incens'd the People, that I remov'd from where I did live, to *Tower*, ~~to~~ to get him, but I told them, it was well known, the Reason why I remov'd, was, the Peoples remo- ving where I liv'd. I also told them, the Church was Murderers of me, and that I did go from House to House, and told them, they had taken away my Reputation, and I had no Children to teach, nor no Business to do; and I expected them to put me in a Way to get my Living, but they never took no Care of me. I will here satisfy the World further. I solemnly appeal to God, that I never had such a Thought as this; he inclin'd the People with going to live in *Tower*, ~~to~~ to get him; nor did I ever speak nor write a- ny Thing with such a Design as to get him; neither did I once dress my self in my best Apparel in my Life, when I went to speak with him; neither had he, nor none of them, grounds for such a thought of me, by Words nor Carriage, neither had he any Respect for me in that Way, to cause him to do it; but it was down-right Malice against the Work of the Spirit of God in me ~~all~~ his Acti- ons will declare it, to cause the People to Destroy me; and I was even

even griev'd to Death, before I could find it out what I was counted a Hypocrite for, through their always denying every Thing. When I pray'd them to tell me what they had against me, they always said, they had nothing against me; but I was more and more reflected upon by the People. I was very much desir'd to come to the very House, by Friends that sent their Children to School to me, where I liv'd before; and I had many Acquaintance there abouts. I thought many sorts of Work, as well as reading, and should have got a very good Living, had it not been for their Slandering of me. I have suffer'd five Years in getting my Living; and I have been griev'd above eight Years through Mr. *Ridgely's* Wickedness; and it is above three Years since I left Hearing of him Preach. There was another Minister, I think it was Mr. *Haseck*.

Here is some Account of Gods goodness to me, for which I desire to adore his Name, in that terrible Tempest of Wind, the 27 of *November, 1703*. In which I expected the whole City to be laid Level in those amazing Hurricanes, and Roarings like mighty Thunder, I expecting every Moment to launch into Eternity, and to come before the Tribunal-Seat of God. I thought now the Wicked would pray to God; my desire was, that all might fear the Lord. O that all would trust in the Mighty God of *Jacob*! I had an awful sense of the Judgment of God, and I believ'd it was rather for the Sins of Professors, than the Profane; and thought, what had I now to Venter my Soul upon, I thought I had not that Work to do now; I know to whom I had committed my Spirit, into the Hands of the Lord Jesus Christ; I consider'd my Conversation for above 17 Years past, which was from the Time the Lord was graciously pleas'd, through infinite Mercy, to make me see the exceeding Sinfulness of Sin, as it was against God. I had not dar'd Willingly or Knowingly to speak a false Word upon any Account whatsoever; and I have had great Trials, as for advancing my self in the Things of this Life. If I had dar'd to have done it, and I consider'd of what I had spoken to Mr. *Gouge*, and of that Book I had written; and here I was made to Rejoyce, that the Lord had made me so faithful, and I resolv'd, if God should spare me, what ever I suffer'd from Man in this Way, I would go; for I never had dar'd to write one Word, but what I had appeal'd to God in the doing of it. But I thought, if Mr. *Ridgely* thought on his Carriage to me about that Book, I was sure he could not have Peace in that, at that terrible Time. I had Peace in this, that I had been faithful to the utmost of my Power, in Word and Deed; but I had no Expectation of acceptance with God on this Account, no more than the vilest Creature upon the Earth; but committing my Spirit into the Hands of my dear Redeemer, as a vile Miserable wretched Creature in my self, and expecting all my Salvation in and through the Merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ, believing such he dy'd for, I thought Death I owe, and Death I must pay, and it is no great matter which way, but if the Lord's will was to spare me, I had rather live to die a natural Death. I could have slept easily, but I thought several times I ought not to sleep, but watch

for the coming of my Lord. I expected every Moment to launch into Eternity, and come before the Tribunal-Seat of God ; and indeed these Things was with such weight on my Spirit, that the next Day it was to me, as if I had been before the Judgment-Seat of God, and come from Judgment ; which I desire to praise the Lord for his Mercies to me, a Sinful Creature. This is that Frame of Spirit Mr. *Handcock* and Mr. *Pindar* told me might be a Delusion ; but I had Dr. *Singleton's* Judgment, and other Ministers, that this was not, nor could not be a Delusion, because it was warrantable from the Scriptures ~~and the~~

January the 14th. 1705. Mr. *Ridgly* own'd all these following Charges before the Church. First, That I said several times to him, that I came for Justice to be done me, and said, how could I sit down with such as thought what I had done was by the Spirit of the Devil ? He own'd, that he bid me look to my own Soul ; and he wish'd I was marry'd ; and he own'd the Expressions in Prayer was us'd, and that I was clear'd by a Church-Act, before he was Pastor, about Mr. *Gouge* ; and when I was sent by Mr. *Pindar*, according to the Church's, and his own Desire, to give him an Account what I said to Mr. *Gouge*, he own'd, that he had profess'd, that he had nothing against me. When I went to him in *Bread-Street*, and intreated him to deal faithfully and plainly with me, and tell me what he had against me ; at the same Time I prov'd, he told me a downright Lie ; for he pleas'd his Fancy, that I had invented all the Things I told him of Mrs. *Gooding's* abusing me, to get into his Company ; and when I went about what Mr. *Handcock* told me, he thought I had invented that too, to come to court him. These he own'd, and hung down his Head, and could look no Body in the Face. He said, he could not think, that Mr. *Handcock* should do so, of all Men. When I call'd Mr. *Barton* and Mr. *Lackson* to witness the Reports, Mr. *Pindar* gave out about my Book, Mr. *Ridgly* said, to excuse himself as well as he could, they told him, it was about little Things. Mr. *Pindar* own'd, he told me, I put up that Bill to exalt my self ; and Mr. *Handcock* own'd, that he told me, that I was apt to take every Thing in a wrong Sense ; and that I had griev'd the Brethrens Spirits, and that they all told him so, concerning the Wrong Mr. *Barton* did me, when he had given his Judgment contrary hereunto, two several Times before, and read the Scriptures I apply'd, and he own'd, that he did tell me, I was enough to set a whole Nation together by the Ears, upon this Account ; and he yielded to this, when I prov'd it, that he told me what I had said to Mr. *Gouge*, might be by the Spirit of the Devil ; and that my Peace with God might be a Delusion. And it was prov'd, that Mr. *Yeatman* said, why you Mun could never remember it all, if it was not by the Spirit of the Devil. Mr. *Ridgly* and Mr. *Pindar* were present when he did it, and they did not deny it ; there was not one Charge which I brought, was prov'd false, nor any Thing in my Life, that was scandalous. These following Charges were mention'd before the Church, tho' many more was not. One of the Members bid me remember the *Scribes* and *Pharisees*, how they lov'd the uppermost Seats in the Synagogues ;

magogues; and told me, she dealt plainly with me. Another told me, it was an easy Thing to be a Member of a Church. And several others said to me, what are you, that you should pretend to such Revelations? Another told me, that she was angry with me, that I should put up such a Bill. Another told me, she would tell me the Reason why they all question'd me, it was because I always gave such ready Answers. And I told them, the Sin against the Holy Ghost, was to charge what was done by the Spirit of God, to be done by the Spirit of the Devil, with ~~Light~~ Right and Malice. Mr. Perkins and Mr. Crisp answer'd, so it was. Then I said, that is what Mr. Ridgely has done with ~~Light~~ Right and Malice; for he knew all that I had done, was for the Glory of God; and he had incens'd the People, that it might be by the Spirit of the Devil; and to confound that Book, he had confounded the whole Doctrine of Salvation.

To this no Man could answer a Word; but he, and Mr. Struton, and Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Crisp went down. Then I pluck'd my Bible out, and flung it on the Table amongst them. I said, pray read them Scriptures I have turn'd down, and look over my Bible, and let that be a Witness for me, whether or no the Devil hath given me such Knowledge and Memory. My Bible was pretty much wore out, by my much reading of it; and there was my Name printed on the Outside, and in that, the Date of the Year when the Bible was printed, that they could not be deceiv'd. When Mr. Ridgely told them, I came for Justice to be done me, but he perswaded me to a peaceable Spirit. I said, the Apostle saith, is this to come to eat the Lord's Body, to come with Envy and Malice? You make it a Table of Devils. And I said, Christ saith, he that believeth on me, as the Scriptures hath said, out of his Belly shall flow Rivers of living Waters. After my Charges was prov'd, I stood upon a Bench, and said, is this no Charge, that I have been counted a Lyar, a Hypocrite, and to speak and write by the Spirit of the Devil, and that I was in Love with Mr. Ridgely, and was craz'd? I said three times over, I demand whoever had Ground to say any of these Things to me? There was neither Man nor Woman could answer a Word. Then I said, well, Gentlemen, I can print you all.

It was prov'd also before the Church, that Mr. Ridgely told the Church Lies, when I went there for a Dismission, to cause them to let me not speak. He told them, I was scolding at Mr. Handcock, about what I had scolded at Mr. Gouge. Mr. Handcock declar'd I was very friendly and lovingly discoursing with him, when he told me these Things; and I said, here is enough that heard me speak to Mr. Gouge, and knows in Tenderness, and with much Affection, and with Faithfulness, I did speak it, and you have preach'd Lies in the Pulpit about me. None made Reply against my Words, least he should appear worse. Mr. Pindar solemnly protested, he never thought me a Hypocrite in his Life, and that he never was angry with me, but only for abusing Mr. Gouge. If this Word, and Mr. Ridgely's, could have been made Good, then it might justly have been charg'd to be done by the Spirit of the Devil; but there was not one Word could be prov'd false. Now, pray see what Fools and Devils these

these two Men prove themselves, after they had deluded the People, and told me, that I had written those Bills and Book to exalt my self, and that my Peace with God might be a Delusion.

June 23. 1707. I went a Month before last *Christmas* to Mr. *Clarks*, Mrs. *Pitman* and Mrs. *Garland* went with me; and I said, Sir, I am come to know what you have to say to me about my Business. He said, he had nothing to say to me. Then I desir'd Leave to say something to him. He told me several Times I was craz'd and distracted, to which Mrs. *Garland* stood up, and said, Sir, I must say they very much asperse Mrs. *Peirce*, for she is a very sober Person; and Mrs. *Pitman* said, I had liv'd in her House, and was diligent in my Business. He said, she may be in her Senses for other Things, but she is craz'd concerning Mr. *Ridgly*. He said, he had discours'd with several of the Members, and they did charge me with nothing in my Conversation, nor none could charge me with any Thing in my Conversation; and he said, they said, they would give me a Dismission with all their Hearts, to be rid of me; and he promis'd, if I sent a peaceable Letter, he would carry it himself, rather than it should not be done. Witnesses my Hand, *Christian Pitman*,
And mine, *Elizabeth Garland*.

July 19. 1707. I went last *February* to Mr. *Clarks*, and Mrs. *Longfan* went with me. I intreated him to carry the Letter to get me a Dismission, according to his Word, but he would not do it. I told him, my Book was three Years and a half ago, and that condemn'd them; and that Bill above four Years ago, which was a Question, condemn'd Mr. *Ridgly*; and my Letters above two Years ago, had all my Charges, and they condemn'd him, and the Message the young Man of the Shop sent up to him, here is the Gentlewoman that has been so often after him. This also condemn'd him to these four Things singly mention'd. Mr. *Clark* yielded it was so; for he had discours'd the People of the House where Mr. *Ridgly* lodges; and with him, and several of the Members, he said, they did charge me with nothing in my Conversation, nor none could; but he said, I was craz'd concerning Mr. *Ridgly*. Mrs. *Longfan* said, I liv'd in her House, and I kept a School, and I taught my Children very well. He said, I might be in my Senses for other Things, but I was craz'd concerning Mr. *Ridgly*. I told him, if I had been a Lyar, they would have had enough against my Conversation. I ask'd him what Devils were they then, to pretend, that I had written Lies to the Holy Ghost? I offer'd Mr. *Clark* if he could bring one Scripture to prove any Thing I had done to be sinful, I would submit to any Thing that he, and all the Ministers would desire me to do. He said, he could not do that, for he did believe, that what I did do, I did with Zeal for the Glory of God. I said, so I do. I ask'd whether I should have sat down with them, and suffer the Work of the Spirit of God to be counted the Work of the Spirit of the Devil? He said, no. Witnesses my Hand, *Mary Longfan*.

Mrs. *Pitman* was with me at the *Amsterdam-Coffee-house*, June 25. 1706. at twelve a Clock. All the while I was repeating the single Charges, Mr. *Samuel Struton* hung down his Head, and smil'd, but upon

upon my speaking very close Words to him, he lifted up his Head, and look'd Mr. *Nesbet* in the Face, and said, there is three Men has given her Offence, and Mr. *Herick* was there. Witness my Hand,

Christian Pitman.

Being requested to give my Testimony concerning *Sarah Peirce*, who saith, she hath for some Years been a Member of Mr. *Ridgly's* Church. I do affirm, that I never did perceive any Distractedness in her, or Disorder as to her Understanding, tho' the Unkindness which she complains some have us'd towards her, hath tempted her to some sharp Expression, which Christian Love will forgive, and not suffer any to add Affliction to the Afflicted,

London, December 31. 1706.

John Spademan,

Samuel Pomfrett.

Whereas Mrs. *Sarah Peirce* is reflected on, for being in Love with Mr. *Ridgly*. I believe there is no Cause for it; for to my Knowledge, she was much pleas'd to hear of his Courting another, and was very desirous it should have been a Match; which she would not have been, had she been so in Love with him herself,

Ann Tong.

I went with my Sister *Sarah*, in June 1705. to speak with Mr. *Ridgly* to get a Dismission, for she had been with him three or four times before, and had intreated him to give her one, and Mr. *Youen* had desir'd it of him, but to no Effect, and he had spoke to Mr. *Pindar* three times before, but to no Effect; I knowing the long Trouble she had been under, went to intreat that he would put her off no longer; but not meeting with him, my Sister ask'd to speak with Mr. *Hassell* he being Mr. *Ridgly's* Friend; and my Sister told him a great deal of her Trouble before his Wife, and Mother, and Brother, and desir'd them to tell Mr. *Ridgly* she was there, and desir'd a Dismission, that she might give him no farther Trouble. We went again, but he bid the Messenger tell us, that he could not be spoke with. I being much troubl'd, I took a Friend with me two Days after, and went between Six and Seven in the Morning, and he was gone out; but the young Man told us, that he said, he would give her a Dismission with all his Heart, if any Church would receive her, and repeated it three or four times over. My Sister sent another Messenger the same Day, to tell him, she did not send to know whether any Church would receive her or not, but desir'd a Dismission of them, *Sion-Colledge*, Witness my Hand,

Fane Peirce.

I went with Mrs. *Peirce* to Mr. *Ridgly's* Lodgings, he was not at Home; she left Word, it was very strange she could not have a Dismission. The Monday following we went again, the young Man of the Shop sent Word up, here was the Gentlewoman that had been so often after him. He would not see her; he sent this Answer, he would do what he could to do what she desir'd; and if he could not, she must go to Mr. ~~Peirce~~. We went then. I have desir'd Neighbours to put their Children to her, but they told me, they heard she was a Disturber of the Church. I do know this was reported, she was one that broke Mr. *Gouge's* Heart. Witness my Hand,

June 20. 1706.

Christian Pitman.

I do hereby certify, that I have more than once heard some Person

son or Persons related to the Church, now under the Care of Mr. *Ridgely*, say and declare unto me, that Mrs. *Sarah Peirce* was in a great Measure the Occasion of breaking Mr. *Gouge's* Heart, and that they were afraid, she would do so by Mr. *Ridgely*, or Words to that Effect. Witness my Hand, *June 24. 1706.* *Nathaniel Evans,*
and his Wife, *Mary Evans.*

Sept. 17. 1705. I went with Mrs. *Peirce* and Mrs. *Pitman* to Mr. *Ridgely's* Lodgings; I went first to ask for him, because he would not see them when they were there before. The first she said, was, Sir, I come to know why you do not do me Justice. Secondly, Sir, why you do not clear my Conversation to the Church. Thirdly, Sir, I desire to know what made you speak so sharply to me, when you met me accidentally. He gave her no Answer to these three Questions, but made a Preamble, that she was forc'd to say, Sir, this is only to spend Time. Then he said, he had sent two Messengers at first, to tell her, that they had nothing against her, and that he had labour'd two several Times to get her a Dismission; and the first Time he could not, but the second Time he had got one with a great deal of Difficulty, and if she would have done three Things. She said, yes, if I would have told Lies, but I will not tell Lies for you, nor never a Man in the World; you never have found me in one yet, nor never shall. She told him of the Things that she discours'd him before about. He said, that he never made himself so familiar with her, to talk so to him; that forc'd her to tell him you lie; and your self reflecting upon me for my complaining of Mrs. *Gooding*, has discover'd the Depth of all your Wickedness to me. He said three Times, he did not think her herself. Mrs. *Pitman* said, she had known her three or four Years, and she liv'd in her House, and that she never saw nothing but that she was herself; and I said, Sir, her Writings, and all that she has done, will show, that she is herself. He said, that two or three had own'd they had jested with her. I said, Sir, do you make Jests of such Things? Do you make Jests of such abominable Things? We desir'd he would give her a Dismission, to end her Grief. Then he said, she was under a Church-Admonition, and that must be taken off before she could have a Dismission. She ask'd whether he would speak with Mr. *Taylor*, the Minister, with another? He said, yes. She said, will you speak with Mr. *Taylor* and me together? He said, no, not with you. Then she said, O because you will lie, and you are as wicked a Man as lives upon the Earth. From thence we went to Mr. *Pindar*, from him to Mr. *Bartons*, from thence to Mr. *Handcocks*, and we at every Place desir'd they would give her a Dismission. Witness my Hand,
June 13. 1706.

Witness my Hand,

Elizabeth Davis,
Christian Pitman.

I do hereby testify, that *Sarah Peirce* liv'd with my Daughter *Boulter*, a Surgeon's Wife, on *London-Bridge*, about three Quarters of a Year, and did perform her Business very faithfully, and did walk according to the Profession she made of the Gospel; and I have receiv'd the same Account of her from other Places she has liv'd in.

Witness my Hand,

Dorothy Reckless.
London,

London, October 12. 1705. This is to acquaint any whom it may concern, that *Sarah Peirce* liv'd with me about ten Years since, for six Months, or thereabouts, and I did then, and do now, Judge her to be one that truly fears the Lord; and therefore neither I, nor any one, hath any Ground or Reason to doubt of her Honesty and Fidelity towards Men; and I did then, and do now, believe her to have her understanding and senses, clear from Distraction, Witness my Hand.

Robert Ericke.

Tower-Royal, October 14. 1705. This is to Certify whom it may concern, that *Mrs. Sarah Peirce* hath Lodg'd in my House for about three Years past, and hath behav'd her self very Honestly, and is very just in her Dealings, industrious in her Business; and one, as I believe, fears God. Witness our Hands,

*William Pitman,
Christian Pitman.*

Anthony Leonard and his Wife, do testify, that *Sarah Peirce* did keep a Sempstresses-Shop in *Seacole-Lane*, for near a Year, and did there behave herself becoming a Christian.

I *Ann Lege*. Witness to these Things.

I *Elizabeth Pear*, do hereby testify, that *Sarah Peirce* having liv'd with me, and by my Recommendation with Captain *Christopher Priffich*, Merchant, for some Time; and I having been intimately acquainted with her from her Childhood, that she has behav'd her self, and liv'd as becomes a Christian, that is in her Right Sence.s Witness my Hand,

Elizabeth Pear.

I *Walter Cooper* and my Wife, do hereby testify, that *Sarah Peirce* came to live with us by *Queen-Hith-Gate*, September the 26. 1684. And liv'd with us four Years and an Half, in which time, the Lord inabl'd her to forsake Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters, and all her Relations which were dear to her, for Conscience sake, they being averse against her going to Meetings. It is between 18 and 19 Years since she was call'd to that Trial; and my Wife has been intimately acquainted with her Conversation ever since; and we know her one that has been faithful, acting in the fear of God, diligent in business, but not of a strong Constitution; which has Occasion'd more difficulties to her; and we have never known her to be out of her right Mind and Sences.

Witness our Hands,

*Walter Cooper,
Jane Cooper.*

Sarah Peirce liv'd with me about half a Year; she was a faithful honest Servant, and her Life and Conversation was according to the Gospel. The Reason of her going away, my Child dy'd, and I afterward kept but one Maid; for she had not strength to do all my Work, or else we had not parted. Witness my Hand, Living in *Rude-Lane*.

Elizabeth York.

Sarah Peirce liv'd with us near nine Months; in which time she serv'd us faithfully, and we know nothing, but that her Con-

versation was suitable to her Profession ; the only Reason of her going from us, was want of Strength. Witness our Hands,
Tower-Hill.

Alice Dale,
Rachel Dale.

We Jonathan and Elizabeth Joyner, of Seething-Lane, London, do hereby certify whom it may concern, that Sarah Peirce liv'd with us in the Capacity of a Servant for about 16 Months, and was a very honest and faithful Servant, and we do believe, liv'd in good Conscience towards God and towards Man. Witness our Hands,

Jonathan Joyner,
Elizabeth Joyner.

Sarah Peirce liv'd with Madam Hutchison, in Goodman's-Fields, and behav'd herself very soberly and honestly in her Place, but the Cook-maid being of a turbulent Spirit, caus'd her to remove ; but when she went from thence, for her sober Behaviour, her Mistress and I recommended her to one Mrs. Jennings ; where she did live, 'till her Mistress did think it convenient to live without a Maid, which was the Cause she came away from her. This I am willing to satisfy any of the Truth of, if they will come to Bur-Street, No. 35. Witness my Hand,

Mary Wallis.

I Alice Dandridge, living in Petty-France, London, here do certify all those that it may concern, I have been intimately acquainted with the Conversation of Sarah Peirce, between 23 and 24 Years, she having liv'd with several of my Acquaintance and Relations ; she has behav'd herself becoming one professing Godliness in her right Senses. The Reason of her removing from her Master's beyond Clare-Market, was, one coming to London that had liv'd there before, that had Strength to do several Things that she had not Strength to do ; and her coming away from Cateaton-Sreet, was, her Master and Mistress going to live in Oxfordshire. Witness my Hand,

Alice Dandridge.

testify Mary Ward, living in White-Cross-Alley, in Middle Moor-Fields, do ~~do~~, I have been intimately acquainted with Sarah Peirce, between 13 and 14 Years. I came acquainted with her, by her living at Mr. Gages, the Ministers, opposite my House, where she continu'd 'till her Master's Death, and 'till her Mistress gave over House-keeping ; and I believe her to be one truly fearing God, and I have never known any Thing in her Conversation unbecoming her Profession, and in her right Senses. The Reason she remov'd her School out of Crown-Alley, was, the People going away. Witness my

Mark, X

Sarah Peirce liv'd with us about 15 or 16 Years since, about two Years, and behav'd herself so well, that we recommended her to Mr. Cave, that godly Minister, which we should not have done, had not her Conversation been becoming the Gospel. From my Lodgings, at the Bell in Broad-Street, having lately left my House in Throgmorton-Street. October 10. 1705. Witness my Hand,

James Fos.

Sarah Peirce liv'd with her Master in the Old-Bailly several Years ago, and I was a Lodger in the House ; she was very faithful, and liv'd

liv'd in the Fear of God, and I verily believe doth so still. I live
in *Aldermanbury*, at the *Blue-Ball*. Witness my Hand,
Ann Tong.

*Here is the Copy of the Offence Mr. Barton gave
me ; with the Scriptures I apply'd.*

MR. Barton and Mr. Lackson stood at the Meeting-house Door,
I coming to the Lecture, Mr. Barton said, there was a Maid
they should have visited, but they did not know where she liv'd.
You are she : You are a Maid, an't you ? I said, yes. He turn'd
up his Head against the Wall, and study'd, and then said, I hope
you are a Maid, an't you ? I said, yes. He turn'd up his Head, and
study'd again, and then said, I think you are so, an't you ? I said,
yes, a fourth Time. He said, because of that Child. I said, I will
tell you whose Grandson he is, he is Mr. *Hudsons*, and he was about
six Years old. Upon his Words, Mr. *Lackson* look'd down towards
the Ground, and was asham'd to own, that ever he had spoke to me,
and he had express'd himself extraordinary glad to see me at his
House a little before. I was griev'd, and went to Mr. *Barton's*
House, he was not at Home. Two Months after, I went again, and
ask'd him his Reason for speaking so to me. He would own no-
thing, but he thought I was marry'd. Then I said, if he thought
fit that I should have the Meeting, I desir'd he would be pleas'd to
speak for it for me ; which he freely did that Night. I could not
have it the next Monday ; and then he promis'd I should have it
the first Night after the next Lord's Supper. I was disappointed a-
gain ; and I went to Mrs. *Dows*, where it was, and none had de-
sir'd to have it. Mr. *Vandick* ask'd if any Body desir'd it in *South-
wark* Side, if not, he would have it. Then Mr. *Barton* mention'd
my Desire. Then Mr. *Vandick* said, I must let it go its Month
round. I said, it had been five Weeks there already, and I had stay'd
so long for it, and if I had it not then, I thought never to ask for it
more, because I had once desir'd it before, and had been put off from
Time to Time, and never had it at all. Upon this, Mr. *Barton*
said, I should certainly have it the first Night it came into *London*.
I said, I did not know when that would be, at this Rate. He said,
the first Night after the next Lord's Supper, you shall certainly have
it. A third Time he said, I should certainly have it the first Night
it came into *London*. I thank'd him, and desir'd him to speak for
it for me. The Friday, when he should have spoke for it, he came
by me, and look'd very *Aw* upon me. I thought Mr. *Barton* thinks
I look so poorly, that I am not fit to have the Meeting ; there-
fore he will not speak for it ; and he did not speak for it. After
the Time was past, I said to one that heard him promise it, I thought
it beneath a Man to be worse than his Word, much more one that
professes

professes to believe in Christ. After this, I went where it was. When Mr. *Pindar* had mention'd where it was to be next, then Mr. *Barton* said, there was a Sister he was afraid would take it ill, she han't the Meeting, that I think is a Maid. He draul'd it out. Mr. *Pindar* said, where doth she live? He said, in *Tower-Royal*. Mr. *Pindar* said, she was here, and said nothing. I apprehended the manner of Mr. *Barton's* speaking to intimate he had Suspicion of my Chastity, or had heard some scandalous Report for two Months Distance one from another. When he saw me then, he had call'd me our Sister *Peirce*; this aggravated the Case. He had griev'd me before with these Expressions, and I had been with him about it; therefore I went in and told why I said nothing; and when I had it, Mr. *Savidge* came and told me, he did not know me. He told me, he saw Mr. *Pindar* at Noon, and he was taken very bad. He told me of Mr. *Dod's* Son going to his Father with a great many Complaints of Afflictions, expecting a great deal of Compassion, and his Father said, Son, Son, where Afflictions lie heavy, Sin lies Light. I told him, Sin had not lain light upon me, for my own Soul, nor others. This affirm'd what Mr. *Barton* did, that I was counted a Hypocrite, with many false Reports I had gone through, and unchristian Carriages to me from several. I made no Complaints of Afflictions to Mr. *Savidge*; therefore I must charge it upon Mr. *Pindar*.

May 1703. This was done.

Here is the six Scriptures, and one Commandment, that I apply'd upon what Mr. *Barton* did. Col. 4. 6. Let your Speech be always with Grace; season'd with Salt. Eph. 5. 3. Fornication, and all Uncleaness, let it not once be nam'd amongst you. Romans 10. 10. Be kindly affectionate one towards another.

Love your Neighbour as your self; do as you would be done by. Ephesians 5. 4. Neither filthy nor foolish talking, which are not convenient, the seventh Commandment requires the Preservation of our one Chastity, and our Neighbour in Heart, Speech, and behaviour. It was Mr. *Robert Handcock*, a Wool-stapler, living in *Barnaby-Street*, that gave his Judgment, and after deny'd it; and then reflected on me. A Word of Advice to the Reader. I pray you to make God's Commands your Rule, and think it not strange, that there is such a Multitude of Hypocrites; for *Cain*, the first Son of *Adam*, made a Profession, by Offering a Sacrifice before his Brother; but his Heart was not Right with God, which caus'd his Malice to rise against his Brother, *Genesis*. 4. *Ananias* and *Sapphirah*, their Hearts was not right with God, which was their Condemnation. Pray read *Matthew* 23. And see what Christ saith to such as I have been treating about. Ye Serpents, ye Generation of Vipers, how can ye escape the Damnation of Hell?

In my other Book, I had mention'd, if any Dissatisfaction remain'd concerning Mr. *Gouge*, if they desir'd me, I would repeat all I said to Mr. *Gouge*, before Mr. *Vandick*, and Mr. *Barton*, who heard me when I speak it; and this was written too, if there was any Thing they were dissatisfy'd about, I pray'd them to ask me, and

and have Satisfaction. They deliver'd my Book, and said, no Body was dissatisfy'd with me.

The Copy of this Book was at the Printers to be printed, *January*. the 2d, 1707. The Printer being Mr. *Ridgly's* intimate Friend, us'd much Importunity with me, to give him leave to acquaint Mr. *Ridgly* with it. I did comply with it, they sent Messengers to me, to know what I requir'd. I said, an honourable Dismission, and Satisfaction for the Wrong done me. Mr. *Youen* ask'd where I would go to? I said, to Mr. *Spademan*. He said, will he receive you? I said, yes, he told me so, if they gave me a Dismission. He ask'd, what two Men I would chose to leave it to? I said, Mr. *Spademan* and Mr. *Clark*, I would leave it to them, what Sum of Money they would allot me. After this, some of the same Gentlemen brought me this Message, that Mr. *Ridgly* said, he would submit to any Thing they two Ministers, that I had chosen, should please to lay upon him. They desir'd, that I would leave out that Word, saying, I would have a Dismission; and us'd many Arguments with me, that I would say this Word, that I would wholly leave it to them two Ministers, to consider what Sort of a Satisfaction was fit to be made me. My answers were these, they might lay that upon me, that was against my Conscience. I said, it must be I must answer for my own Conscience, at the Tribunal-Seat of God. I said, I could forgive all; but Christ had determin'd the Matter. I said, if they would give me the House full of Gold, I would not comply with Hypocrisy, I said, if I beg'd my Bread from Door to Door, I would not comply with no Hypocrisy. I acquainted Mr. *Spademan* and Mr. *Clark* with these terms; I added this, if he would come Face to Face, and let Mr. *Spademan* or Mr. *Clark* read the Charges, and if he would give Positive answers, I would leave it wholly to them two, without any Word of my one. He told Mr. *Clark*, do what I would, he would not come Face to Face with me. I offer'd also, if he would give me an honourable Dismission, I would say no more. He gave Mr. *Clark* a Dismission with these following Words:

To the Reveren'd Mr. *Spademan*, or any other Minister, that *Sarah Peirce* hath a Mind to go to. This is to certify, that she hath been a Member of the Church, of which I am Pastor, for some Years, but she hath conceiv'd a very ill Opinion of me, of whom I know but very little of, I hope she has Grace. From one of the most Unwortheist's of Christ's Servants,

Thomas Ridgly.

I told Mr. *Clark*, he knew that to be lies, for Mr. *Ridgly* knew a great Deal of me; but the best Apology he could make, for pretending I was in Love with him, before the Church, he said, I had been once or twice with him at Mr. *Mason*, and he said, I had been to visit him once or twice in *Bread-Street*; and he said, I had been to visit him once or twice at *London-Bridge*. I wish'd I had told, I had been many times there, to my Sorrow; for I never went for Pleasure of his Company. *June* the 24. 1708.

The one Half of what I have suffer'd thro' their Means, is not contain'd in this Book.

David's

I said I would submit to any thing saving sin & seven times

David's Sin was not with Malice against the Work of the Spirit of God; but his Repentance was such the like was never known, and a Judgment fell upon a whole Nation for it.

What Job's Friends did, was with Ignorance to justify God, because it was a dark Dispensation, and God did not use to afflict any, in such a Manner, but Hypocrites, in that Age: But they had no Malice against Job in it, for God made all of them humble themselves to him, and bring him Presents.

Peter was tempted to deny his Lord with an Oath, but not with Malice.

Paul persecuted the Church, but he did it ignorantly, thinking he did God good Service.

All these, as soon as ever their Sin was laid open, they manifested great Repentance.

Now I have shewn you the Nature of the Sin of my Enemies, is far greater in the sight of God, than that of these Saints.

Pray read, Phil. 1. 27, 28. Prov. 29. 1. psal. 78 36.
psal. 50. psal. 55. Jerem. 8. 8.

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